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SEPTEMBER
1994

# WORLD SOCCER

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## THE BIG DRAW

FULL ANALYSIS OF ALL THE EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS

## BRAZIL

LIFE AFTER THE WORLD CUP

THE RISE AND RISE OF EASTERN EUROPE

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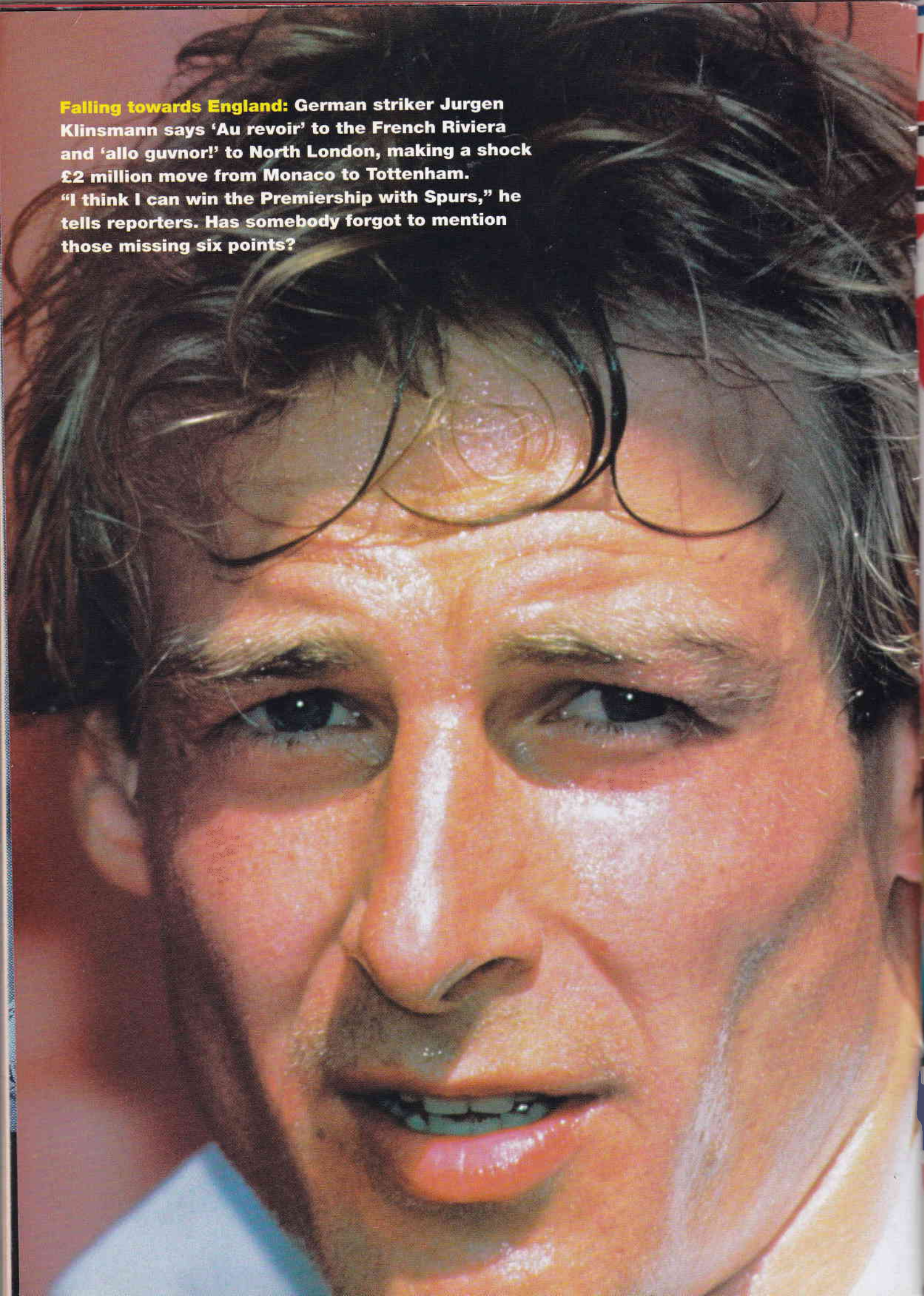

**Falling towards England:** German striker Jurgen Klinsmann says 'Au revoir' to the French Riviera and 'allo guvnor!' to North London, making a shock £2 million move from Monaco to Tottenham. "I think I can win the Premiership with Spurs," he tells reporters. Has somebody forgot to mention those missing six points?

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# IN THIS ISSUE

Preview to the new season in Britain featuring Chris Sutton, club-by-club guide to the FA Premiership and an interview with Northern Ireland manager Bryan Hamilton **pages 4-9.** 1994-95 European competition draws **page 10.** Italy, featuring two Serie A newcomers: Kazu Miura and Alexi Lalas **pages 12-13.** Spain **pages 16-17.** Western Europe **pages 18-22.** Eastern Europe **pages 23-28.** World Cup USA '94 Post-Mortem, featuring Brazil, Roberto Baggio, Russia, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania and Inside Out **pages 29-47.** Keir Radnedge Commentary **pages 40-42.** South America, featuring Flamengo and the father of Brazilian football **pages 48-51.** Feature on Neville Southall and Dimitri Kharin **pages 52-53.** North America **page 54.** A-Z of World Stadia **pages 56-57.** Asia **pages 62-65.** Africa **page 66.** International results **pages 68-69.** AFCAT **pages q70-71.** Brian Glanville's Last Word **pages 72-73.** Trevor Brooking **page 74.**

# SUTTON + SHEA

**KENNY DALGLISH is going for broke at Blackburn Rovers this year. New striker Chris Sutton is possibly the young man who could break him.**

Dalglish has never been afraid to spend big money in his quest for success at Ewood Park. Since taking charge at the club less than three years ago he has spent more than £26million on new signings.

To his credit, very few of those acquisitions have failed to provide value for money. But the British record £5million paid to Norwich for Sutton represents his biggest gamble yet. Unless Rovers win a trophy this season, people are going to start questioning Dalglish's spend, spend, spend policy.

Sutton, just 21, has yet to win his first England cap. So far he has managed only 35 League goals and, until 18 months ago, was playing more as a central defender than a centre-forward.

There are also major questions concerning the player's ability to handle such a high-profile move, particularly after he spent the night in a police cell on the eve of his transfer following a drunken incident outside a Norwich nightclub. "I have made mistakes in the past and paid for them but there is no reason why I can't handle everything that goes with this move," Sutton insists.

"I have been called big-headed and over-priced. I've been portrayed badly because of this outrageous fee, but anyone who thinks I'm ready to waste it all is wrong.

"I have worked hard to get this far and I'm not going to stop now. No matter what people might think, I have earned all this. I came close to not making the grade at Norwich and only survived through single-mindedness and ambition.

"I realise that I have been very lucky. Three years ago my ambition was simply to play for Norwich. Even 12 months ago I would never have expected any of this to have happened.

"It was very flattering to be linked with clubs like Arsenal, Manchester United, Everton and Tottenham, but Blackburn were always my first choice and I had decided to join them from the moment I first spoke to them.

"With the players around me the club have a great chance of winning something this season and that is the main reason I have joined them. They went very close to beating Manchester United for the Championship last time and maybe we can do it this season .

"This decision has nothing to do with money. Money is not my God. I just felt that coming to Blackburn would help to further my career.

"I have joined one of the biggest clubs in Britain and cannot help but learn from playing alongside Alan Shearer. He is the best striker in Europe right now and the closest thing to the complete player. Hopefully he can help me to become an England international, too."

Dalglish has no doubts that his latest, and costliest, acquisition will prove to be another key figure in the gradual transformation of Blackburn. Others, however, remain unconvinced.

Manchester United refused to get involved in the £5million auction organised by Norwich chairman Robert Chase, claiming that their valuation of Suttton fell short of Norwich's asking price. Even Spurs chairman Alan Sugar, who has kicked his club's wage structure into touch to complete the spectacular signings of World Cup stars Jurgen Klinsmann and Ilie Dumitrescu, baulked at the cost of signing Sutton.

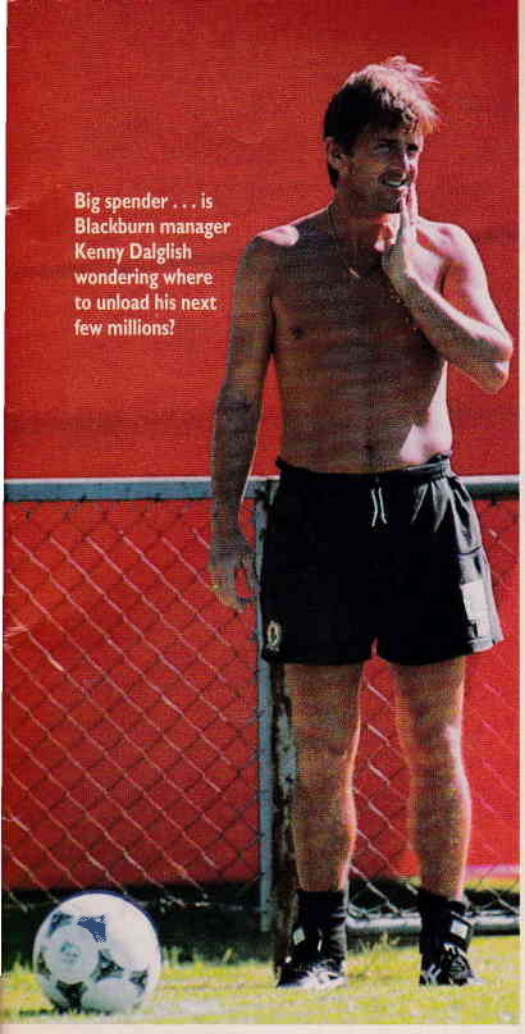
"The £5million fee on its own is a hell of a lot of money, but why pay those kind of wages for a player who, with the greatest respect, is just potential at the moment?" asked Sugar.

"For that money you have the pick of the best players in Europe, players with a proven track record, established internationals at the top of their profession.

"To pay £12,000 a week to an unproved player was out of the question for Tottenham. It's not greedy asking for it, but how would the others react? The cost of players is rocketing but, like anything in life, you have to pay the market prices."

Yet Spurs certainly have not hesitated to spend big money in their bid to lift spirits and expectations after the crippling blow of an FA punishment which leaves them six points adrift of the rest of the Premiership before a ball is kicked, and already out of the FA Cup.

Nor have others been slow to follow their lead. Arsenal lost out on Sutton but finally captured the midfield general they have been looking for in Sweden's Stefan Schwarz from Benfica. Chelsea, Norwich, Leeds, Nottingham Forest and Leicester, as well as Blackburn and Spurs, have all broken



Big spender . . . is Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish wondering where to unload his next few millions?

# Yellow and red in black and white

**WORLD CUP referee Philip Don has moved to allay fears that the English game will be turned into a non-contact sport by FIFA's new interpretation of the rules of the game.**

**There were 227 yellow cards shown during the World Cup's 52 games and a further 15 players were dismissed. If that average of 4.36 bookings were to be repeated throughout the forthcoming season, Premiership clubs alone would be looking at more than 2,000 yellow cards!**

**But Don, who takes charge of the Manchester United v Blackburn Charity Shield meeting at Wembley this month, insists we have nothing to fear.**

**"The new interpretations contributed to some very fast, end-to-end games in America, and I'm sure that the commitment and passion which are the hallmarks of the game in this country can be maintained under them," he says.**

**"It doesn't mean that you can't tackle from behind, but it does mean that the defender who goes through the attacker to play the ball will now be penalised, which is a good thing. We must protect the striker who has his back to goal.**

**"Tackling is a skill that should remain in the game. If it's done properly nobody will be cautioned."**

**Don is one of the panel of 22 leading officials who will meet regularly during the season in a bid to ensure the consistency of attitude demanded for many years by players and managers.**

**But he is adamant that the new standard of refereeing will not require a dramatic change in attitude from FA Premiership players.**

**"If you look at the players who make their living in England, such as the Irish and Norwegians, they had very few yellow cards and were quite obviously able to adapt.**

**"I accept that the English game is unique in many ways and if we tried to refine the way we played and copy the continental approach it would be a retrograde step.**

**"But if defenders aren't allowed to get away with so much, then players won't rely purely on physical strength and attackers will be able to develop their skills.**

**"Spectators in England want to see goals as much as anyone, anywhere else in the world.**

**"The World Cup had more goals, thanks to the new interpretations, and I am quite happy to implement the laws in this way in the FA Premiership."**

# RER = SUCCESS ?

their transfer records this summer while Manchester United, Newcastle, Everton and Liverpool have millions burning a hole in their pockets but can't find the right players to spend them on.

Every year we say that the transfer market has gone crazy and clubs are paying way over the odds for players of average ability. This time is certainly no different.

The starting price for even the most run-of-the-mill player seems to be £1million these days, with virtually every club in the Premiership seeking to prove they can still survive in the market with Blackburn.

It is questionable whether the British game can actually afford these sort of fees on top of the huge stadia redevelopment bills necessitated by the implementation of the Taylor Report.

Admission prices have rocketed and once again it seems the game is banking on the goodwill — and cash — of long-suffering fans to finance ambitions.

Dalglish certainly has made a rod for his own back with the Sutton signing.

Blackburn are now firmly established among the super-powers of British football on the strength of Jack Walker's private fortune. Now they must go a stage further and show they can match Manchester United on the field as well as off it. Chris Sutton is the player they are banking on to do that. It's a hell of a task.

## Premiership prospects

***ARSENAL:*** Schwarz's arrival will finally provide the midfield flair Arsenal have been lacking for the past couple of years. With the best defence in the business and the prolific Wright up front, Arsenal will be Manchester United's closest challeng ers this season.

***ASTON VILLA:*** Ron Atkinson hopes Lamptey and Fashanu can rekindle the spark which disappeared last season in spite of the Coca-Cola Cup triumph. But with doubts about the long-term futures of McGrath, Saunders and Dalian Atkinson, Villa still look more of a Cup team than Championship contenders.

***BLACKBURN ROVERS:*** They *MUST* win something this season to justify Kenny Dalglish's spectactular transfer policy. Whether Sutton and Shearer can hit it off together remains to be seen and the absence of Batty during the early months will hit them hard. But with their resources Rovers have to be taken seriously.

Big capture . . . Arsenal's Swedish midfielder, Stefan Schwarz.

***CHELSEA:*** Glenn Hoddle is slowly putting things right at the Bridge and Furlong and Minto should help ensure there is no repeat of last season's relegation scare. The bonus of European football will prove a welcome distraction.

***COVENTRY CITY:*** Having spent all summer trying to hang on to Babb and Ndlovu, City boss Phil Neal has been unable to make the signings his team desperately need. Unless they can procure a regular goalscorer, a mid-table place would be the peak of City's ambitions.

***CRYSTAL PALACE:*** Manager Alan Smith has set his newly promoted team a target of the top six. That is as unlikely goal, but with bargain signings Pitcher, Preece and Wilkins added to a promising young squad, Palace should have no problem adjusting to the demands of the Premiership.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 6*

Ossie and Ilie . . . Tottenham manager Ardiles reveals new signing Dumitrescu to the media.

# Premiership prospects

***EVERTON:*** The pressure is on Mike Walker to turn Everton around after last season's late, late escape from the drop. Peter Johnson's millions will help, but big signings have not done well in recent years. A better season in prospect, but there is still a lot of hard work ahead.

***IPSWICH TOWN:*** John Lyall's enforced return as manager proves just how desperate things have become at Portman Road. Having just avoided relegation for the past two seasons, Ipswich will do well to make it three in a row. New signings Sedgley and Thomsen should revitalise a lacklustre midfield.

***LEEDS UNITED:*** Although Palmer's arrival will strengthen a previously vulnerable defence, the failure to sign Skuhravy has come as a major blow. But if McAllister can maintain last season's superb form, they should be good enough for the top six.

***LEICESTER CITY:*** Having gained play-off success at the third time of asking, Leicester now face an uphill battle to preserve their hard-earned Premiership status. Draper could prove a useful acquisition but it's going to be an uphill battle at Filbert Streeet.

***LIVERPOOL:*** Roy Evans is still trying to sort out the mess left behind by Graeme Souness, and even supporters concede their team are unlikely to pose much of a threat this season. The revival is under way, but slowly.

***MANCHESTER CITY:*** Against all expectations, Brian Horton has survived the Francis Lee takeover and appears to be turning things around with some astute transfer deals. If City can forget their obsession with their Manchester rivals they could be looking at the top 10 this time.

***MANCHESTER UNITED:*** Still the team they all have to beat. Outstanding in every department, and they have been further strengthened by the capture of central defender May from rivals Blackburn. Although they will be distracted by the quest for the Champions Cup, it will still be a brave man who bets against United winning their third title in a row.

***NEWCASTLE UNITED:*** Newcastle have the support and the resources to maintain their recent progress but will be hard pressed to improve on last season's efforts. It is hard to imagine Cole and Beardsley can both play as well as in their first season together. A good UEFA Cup bet.

***NORWICH CITY:*** John Deehan must invest the Sutton millions wisely if he is to silence the rumours that he is merely keeping the manager's chair warm for a bigger name. Mike Walker's departure last season ripped the heart out of the club and Norwich's form in the seond half of the season suggests a struggle ahead.

***NOTTINGHAM FOREST:*** Frank Clark has completely transformed the team who went down under Brian Clough a year ago. Roy's signing has been a major coup and if the Dutchman can supply the service for the prolific Collymore, Forest could be the surprise side of the season.

***QPR:*** Having said goodbye to five of last season's side as well as chairman Richard Thompson, Rangers are in danger of sinking without trace. Even though they've clung on to Ferdinand, defensive deficiencies could prove very costly.

***SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY:*** If Wednesday can avoid their traditional poor start, they should be good enough to challenge for Europe. When everyone at Hillsborough is fit, Wednesday are more than a match for most teams. Sadly, they rarely seem to enjoy a clean bill of health these days.

***SOUTHAMPTON:*** Alan Ball managed to engineer a dramatic escape from relegation last time but knows he cannot rely on Le Tissier to carry an otherwise sub-standard team through another season largely on his own. Unless new faces can be found, Saints will do well to beat the drop this time.

***TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR:*** Six points down and already out of the FA Cup, so it will be a major achievement if troubled Spurs can reach even mid-table respectability. The talent is certainly there and the arrivals of Dumitrescu and Klinsmann will further lift spirits, but the application will have to be a lot better than last season's miserable effort.

***WEST HAM UNITED:*** Troubled times are ahead at Upton Park, where the team are distinctly lacking in pace and without a prolific goalscorer to keep them out of trouble. Much is going to depend on the defence this time. Should just be good enough to keep out of trouble, but don't expect too many thrills.

***WIMBLEDON:*** It is difficult to see just where Wimbledon go from here. Having finished in the top six and managed to hang on to most of their best players and manager Joe Kinnear, the Dons have neither the support nor the financial muscle needed to overthrow the Uniteds and Blackburns of this world.

# The lesso

Learning . . . Alan Smith of Palace.

**TERRY VENABLES *(England coach):*** It was a great World Cup in terms of attacking football. The rule changes worked, especially banning the tackle from behind. It has enabled strikers to play further forward without fear of getting chopped down when they receive the ball with their backs to goal. Instead of having one striker on his own up front and another dropping deep, teams were playing with two strikers successfully.

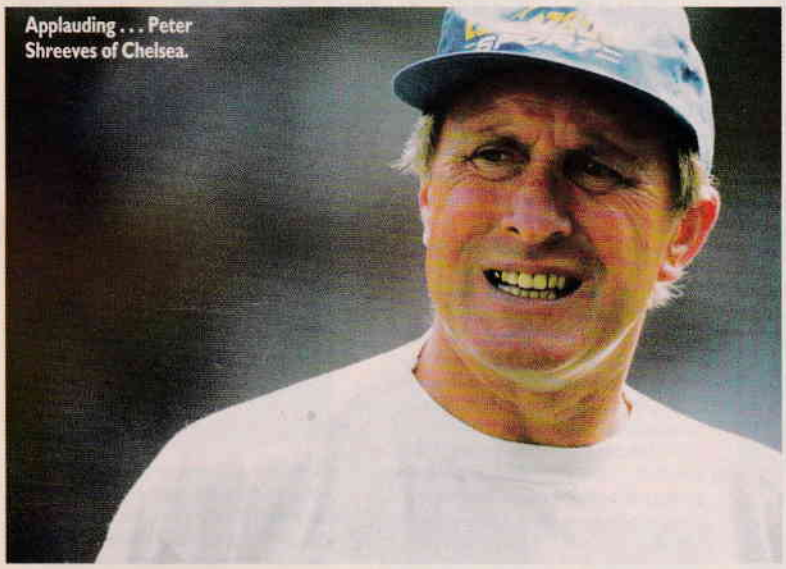
**ALAN SMITH *(Crystal Palace manager):*** The advent of players not forcing the offside decision has certainly been a good thing which I think we've all taken on board. Instead of back fours rushing forward in a line or trying to hack an opponent down, defenders have been prepared to beat people with their own skill. That is something all British defenders could learn from.

**OSSIE ARDILES *(Tottenham manager):*** It is impossible to talk technicalities until we know how referees are going to react to the FA's directive to follow FIFA's new guidelines. If they follow those rules as strictly as they have during this World Cup, the English game will be totally changed this season. Football is a physical sport and should not be a game where nobody can touch each other. This has to be sorted out before the season starts.

**FRANK CLARK *(Nottingham Forest manager):*** The World Cup simply confirmed what we already knew — the better your players can control the ball, the better players they are. I don't think there were any outstanding tactical innovations to emerge from the US, probably because there aren't any left. A lot of teams played with only one man up front and that seems to be quite popular, but I was already doing that at Forest last season. But this World Cup has brought a lot of very good players to the attention of British clubs who we weren't previously aware of. With the transfer market in England so expensive after the Chris Sutton deal, a lot of our managers will start to broaden their horizons in the search for new players.

# ns of USA '94

**PETER SHREEVES *(Chelsea assistant manager):*** My main concern as a coach is whether the tackle from behind is going to be outlawed from our game. That will affect everything I do in my preparations for the new season because it completely does away with the need for a sweeper and means we would have to revert to a flat-back four at Chelsea. I'll be the first to applaud if it is adopted by our game because it puts the emphasis on skills on the ball. The British game has become more physical and more athletic every year. If anything is going to return our game to a skill-oriented sport I will go along with it all the way.



Applauding . . . Peter Shreeves of Chelsea.

**JOE KINNEAR *(Wimbledon manager):*** I don't believe the tournament was the huge success some people are claiming. There were a lot of very ordinary games, no outstanding team and no outstanding player. There was certainly nobody to take up the baton from Pele, Cruyff, Beckenbauer and Maradona. I can't really see how the English game will be affected by what we saw. English supporters simply wouldn't tolerate this painfully slow build-up if it only produces two chances in 90 minutes as Italy did in the Final. I also have my reservations about the way the game is being handled. You cannot have zones of the pitch where you're not allowed to make a tackle. The experts say the high number of bookings has given the game to the forwards, but there is an art to defending too. If football is simply going to be about going forward then they'll ruin the game.

**JOHN DEEHAN *(Norwich manager):*** We'll carry on exactly as we have done for years, trying to play attractive, passing football. Our aim will be helped if the Premiership adopts FIFA's ban on the tackle from behind. We've got to learn the lessons from the US. It was so nice to see players receiving the ball in the first five minutes without being dumped on the floor from behind. It gives forwards greater confidence to hold the ball and encourages open, attacking play. It also makes defenders do their job properly and stay on their feet.

**PHIL NEAL *(Coventry manager):*** The one thing I would like to introduce from the World Cup at Coventry next season are those girls dancing the samba. Apart from that, I don't think the World Cup gave us anything new. I had to smile when Tomas Brolin peeled off the defensive wall to score that goal for Sweden against Romania. I'd worked on exactly the same free-kick routine with Alan Shearer and Kevin Campbell when I was helping the England Under-21 team three or four years ago. Everything we see in football now is just an old idea revamped and repackaged to look new.

**HARRY REDKNAPP *(West Ham assistant manager):*** I shall be working to develop the passing and movement of my players around the edge of the penalty area, and the best way for them to learn is to look at the way Brazil played. Their first-time passing and one-two moves all revolved around Romario, but everyone was involved. Their speed of thought and speed of action was something every team in the country would benefit from.

**STEWART HOUSTON *(Arsenal assistant manager):*** It's impossible to draw any real conclusions from the World Cup because what we saw in the US was false football. Stefan Schwarz tells me that when Sweden played in Dallas, the temperature was 120 degrees. You can't even sit under an umbrella in that heat, never mind play football properly. Because of that, we saw lots of patches of good play but not 90 minutes of continuous football.

## All the summer transfers

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15.7.94 | Chris Sutton | Norwich | Blackburn | £5million |
| 30.6.94 | Carlton Palmer | Sheffield Wed | Leeds | £2.8million |
| 28.6.94 | Basile Boli | Marseille | Rangers | £2.7million |
| 29.7.94 | Ilie Dumitrecsu | Steaua Bucharest | Tottenham | £2.6million |
| 07.6.94 | Bryan Roy | Foggia | Nottm. Forest | £2.5million |
| 25.5.94 | Paul Furlong | Watford | Chelsea | £2.3million |
| 15.6.94 | Brian Laudrup | Fiorentina | Rangers | £2.25million |
| 02.8.94 | Vinny Samways | Tottenham | Everton | £2.2million |
| 01.8.94 | Jurgen Klinsmann | Monaco | Tottenham | £2million |
| 01.6.94 | Stefan Schwarz | Benfica | Arsenal | £1.75million |
| 23.6.94 | Nicky Summerbee | Swindon | Man City | £1.5million |
| 04.8.94 | John Fashanu | Wimbledon | Aston Villa | £1.35million |
| 18.7.94 | Nii Lamptey | Anderlecht | Aston Villa | £1.3million |
| 31.3.94 | Tony Daley | Aston Villa | Wolves | £1.25million |
| 21.6.94 | Joey Beauchamp | Oxford | West Ham | £1million |
| 04.7.94 | Steve Froggatt | Aston Villa | Wolves | £1million |
| 22.6.94 | Mike Milligan | Oldham | Norwich | £1million |
| 29.6.94 | Jon Newsome | Leeds | Norwich | £1million |
| 16.6.94 | Steve Sedgley | Tottenham | Ipswich | £1million |
| 20.6.94 | John Moncur | Swindon | West Ham | £850,000 |
| 13.7.94 | Peter Atherton | Coventry | Sheffield Wed | £800,000 |
| 25.7.94 | Billy Dodds | St Johnstone | Aberdeen | £800,000 |
| 28.6.94 | Ian Taylor | Port Vale | Sheffield Wed | £800,000 |
| 29.5.94 | Scott Minto | Charlton | Chelsea | £775,000 |
| 15.6.94 | Neil Cox | Aston Villa | Middlesbrough | £750,000 |
| 11.7.94 | Neil Emblen | Millwall | Wolves | £600,000 |
| 26.7.94 | Marc Hottiger | Sion | Newcastle | £600,000 |
| 08.7.94 | Mark Robinson | Newcastle | Swindon | £600,000 |
| 28.7.94 | Carl Bradshaw | Sheffield Utd | Norwich | £500,000 |
| 22.6.94 | David Smith | Norwich | Oxford | £500,000 |
| 11.7.94 | Jamie Moralee | Millwall | Watford | £450,000 |
| 02.8.94 | Jason Drysdale | Watford | Newcastle | £425,000 |
| 18.7.94 | Colin Woodthorpe | Norwich | Aberdeen | £400,000 |
| 23.6.94 | Andy Preece | Stockport | Crystal Palace | £350,000 |
| 24.5.94 | Michael Stensgard | Viborg | Liverpool | £300,000 |
| 20.7.94 | Peter Swan | Port Vale | Plymouth | £300,000 |
| 04.7.94 | Nigel Worthington | Sheffield Wed | Leeds | £300,000 |
| 07.7.94 | Philomen Massinga | Mamelodi Sundowns | Leeds | £275,000 |
| 14.7.94 | Sieb Dykstra | Motherwell | QPR | £250,000 |
| 01.8.94 | Brad Friedel | USSF | Newcastle | £250,000 |
| 16.6.94 | John Taylor | Bristol Rovers | Bradford | £250,000 |
| 27.5.94 | Andy Thomson | Queen of the South | Southend | £250,000 |
| 25.5.94 | Carl Veart | Adelaide City | Sheffield Utd | £250,000 |
| 28.7.94 | Lee Glover | Nottm. Forest | Port Vale | £200,000 |
| 01.8.94 | Phil King | Sheffield Wed | Aston Villa | £200,000 |
| 13.7.94 | Richard Liburd | Middlesbrough | Bradford | £200,000 |
| 03.7.94 | Mart Poom | FC Wil | Portsmouth | £200,000 |
| 23.6.94 | Chris Vinnicombe | Rangers | Burnley | £200,000 |
| 16.6.94 | Claus Thomsen | AGF Aarhus | Ipswich | £180,000 |
| 11.7.94 | Dwight Marshall | Plymouth | Luton | £150,000 |
| 15.7.94 | Tony Ellis | Preston | Blackpool | £150,000 |
| 02.8.94 | Steve Guppy | Wycombe | Newcastle | £150,000 |
| 10.7.94 | Nicky Forster | Gillingham | Brentford | £100,000 |
| 12.7.94 | Dariusz Kubicki | Aston Villa | Sunderland | £100,000 |
| 05.6.94 | Graeme Tomlinson | Bradford | Man Utd | £100,000 |
| 09.5.94 | Ian Feuer | Los Angeles Salsa | West Ham | £75,000 |
| 19.7.94 | Jeff Eckhardt | Fulham | Stockport | £50,000 |
| 06.7.94 | Ray Kelly | Athlone Town | Man City | £30,000 |
| 11.7.94 | Carl Emberson | Millwall | Colchester | £25,000 |
| 21.7.94 | Sean Parrish | Telford | Doncaster | £20,000 |
| 23.6.96 | Darren Pitcher | Charlton | Crystal Palace | Exchange |
| 23.6.94 | David Whyte | Crystal Palace | Charlton | Exchange |
| 23.6.94 | Paul Mortimer | Crystal Palace | Charlton | Exchange |
| 17.7.94 | Tommy Mooney | Southend | Watford | Exchange |
| 17.7.94 | Derek Payne | Southend | Watford | Exchange + £95,000 |
| 17.7.94 | Keith Dublin | Watford | Southend | Exchange |
| 12.7.94 | Micky Adams | Stoke | Fulham | Free |
| 25.7.94 | Ijah Anderson | Tottenham | Southend | Free |
| 01.6.94 | Clayton Blackmore | Man Utd | Middlesbrough | Free |
| 13.7.94 | Phil Brown | Bolton | Blackpool | Free |
| 19.7.94 | Tony Cascarino | Chelsea | Marseille | Free |
| 12.7.94 | Steve Foley | Stoke | Lincoln | Free |
| 21.7.94 | Andy Gray | Tottenham | Athletic Marbella | Free |
| 13.7.94 | Colin Hoyle | Bradford | Notts County | Free |
| 19.7.94 | Terry Hurlock | Millwall | Fulham | Free |
| 06.7.94 | Mike Phelan | Man Utd | West Brom | Free |
| 11.7.94 | Geoffrey Pitcher | Millwall | Watford | Free |
| 30.6.94 | Perry Suckling | Watford | Doncaster | Free |
| 27.5.94 | Ray Wilkins | QPR | Crystal Palace | Free |
| 17.7.94 | Jim Will | Arsenal | Dunfermline | Free |
| 09.6.94 | Steve Wood | Southampton | Oxford | Free |
| 19.7.94 | Simon Barker | QPR | Swindon | Tribunal |
| 22.7.94 | Mark Draper | Notts County | Leicester | Tribunal |
| 30.5.94 | David May | Blackburn | Man Utd | Tribunal |
| 14.7.94 | Nicky Mohan | Middlesbrough | Leicester | Tribunal |
| 05.7.94 | Andy Patterson | Luton | Charlton | Tribunal |

# MARKS-MANN

How the Germans greeted Jurgen's giant deal

**GERMAN striker Jurgen Klinsmann's multi-million-marks transfer from Monaco to Tottenham was greeted with incredulity in his home country's media.**

**A move to England was discounted after Klinsmann, 65 times capped, had turned down on approach from Everton. Now he has accepted a £15,000-a-week offer from a club still reeling from a financial scandal and the various penalties that resulted.**

**The mass circulation *Bild-Zeitung* speculated that Klinsmann, "the first German international to play on the island, must have been offered such lucrative financial inducements that he simply couldn't refuse the biggest pay day of his career."**

***Welt am Sonntag* also suggested that the player "possibly couldn't resist the challenge of playing in the steel bath of the physically most demanding league in the world, but his salary was probably an even more powerful motivating factor."**

**The country's most authoritative sports paper, *Kicker*, on the other hand, warns Tottenham: "Klinsmann's displays in the World Cup were exceptional, but he is not such a good player now as those observers in America assume."**

**Other media expound the theory that Klinsmann is taking a big gamble. The largest player in Bavaria, *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, claims: "English football is quite different to that in Germany, Italy, or France where he played before. Having turned 30 he may not be able to cope with the pressure of 42 League games and the other demanding competitions. The stress caused by the fierce rivalry for places among the vast club squads, and the high stakes, make British football more challenging than perhaps anywhere in Europe."**

***Bild am Sonntag* lists Klinsmann's wages, his signing-on fee of £500,000 and a bonus of £1,000 for every goal he scores (since denied), as the principal reasons for his move, and adds: "No German club can afford to pay such extravagant remuneration.**

**"But then no German club would be willing to risk so much money for a player who has clearly passed the peak of his career.**

**"Good luck to Klinsmann. He deserves it. And good luck to Tottenham. They will need it."**

**On the whole the German media did not cover the story of Klinsmann's transfer to the extent that it was overdone in England. But then he did not return to the Bundesliga, but remained abroad.**

**At least his compatriots can take credit for accurate reporting, while the British media, without exception, produced wrong statistics and false information.**

**For the record: Klinsmann is not the first German to play in England, he has never played for Real Madrid, he was never European Footballer of the Year, and he has won 65 caps, not 62.**

*ARTHUR ROTMIL*

**IAN RODGERS** TALKS TO NORTHERN IRELAND MANAGER BRYAN HAMILTON

# TEAMWORK FIRST, LAST AND ALL THE TIME

**"I HAVE to confess to having a quick look at the map," admits Northern Ireland manager Bryan Hamilton, about Latvia and Liechtenstein, his newest opponents in the 1996 European Championship qualifiers.**

But Hamilton *(right)* adds: "If travel broadens the mind and experience, I've been to Liechtenstein now and seen its beauty, and some football, first hand."

Hamilton's two new adversaries may be unfamiliar, but another have a well-acquainted look about them: Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland, yet again. Surely the Northern Irish side must be thoroughly fed up with facing their Southern counterparts.

"No I don't see it that way," says Hamilton. "I'm always happy to be playing games, whoever the opposition may be. If you don't play you don't get the necessary experience. And at this level it's that experience which is so vital for success in this tournament.

"Qualification for Euro '96 is my aim at the moment. And the venue is a tremendous incentive to everyone. So many of our players earn their living in England."

But 47-year-old Hamilton is well aware of the pitfalls. "If we qualify, it will be a feat. The Portuguese will be a major force. They've a talented outfit. They've invested heavily in youth in the last couple of years and that's starting to pay off for them.

"The Republic are always hard to beat, and Austria are an emerging team, after spending a few years coming out of a slight recession. Obviously, we've got to be aware of the newer countries in our group too. We've got a tough job ahead, but I'm quite confident."

It's not just the influx of new Eastern Bloc countries which has altered the qualifying

stages of the Championship for 1996. Three points for a win has been introduced for the first time in the qualifying groups.

"There's nothing negative about it," says Hamilton. "It's worked well in England and it's bound to make matters more interesting for everyone concerned because you're never really going to be out of contention.

"Teams will be going all out for the three points. It's a stimulation."

This decision has been coupled with an increase in the number of qualifying nations. Hamilton says: "If you miss out, it's going to be perceived that 24 teams is too little, and if you qualify, it's just enough. Everybody knows what the rules are and we've got to do everything we can to succeed."

But isn't the six-team group just a little too much, considering the amount of football currently being played in Britain?

"It's something out of my control. It's happened because we're in a changing world. I'm not against the idea. I wish all the new countries well. The more teams playing, the more quality we'll see."

# GLENTORAN ON THE MOVE

**FORMER Northern Ireland midfielder Tommy Cassidy, 43, is the new manager of Glentoran.**

Cassidy, who won 24 caps for his country between 1971 and 1981, played for the club as well as for Newcastle United, Burnley and Apoel of Nicosia.

He took over as manager of the Cypriot team in 1987, leaving after two years when he made allegations regarding corruption in the running of football there.

After a spell as manager of Gateshead in the GM Vauxhall Conference, he resigned at the turn of the year. The man Cassidy replaces, Robert Strain, will continue at the Oval as his assistant.

Cassidy's first signing for his new club could turn out to be a real gem: 26-year-old Dublin-born midfielder Donal O'Brien. He was highly rated when playing last season with Derry City in the League of Ireland, and certainly will strengthen Glentoran in their bid to climb the table after a mediocre ninth place in 1993-94.

The Oval will not be the club's home in a few years. At the recent annual meeting a majority of shareholders voted to investigate the possibilities of moving from the stadium, which is in need of repair, and building a modern complex.

Alternatively, money could be invested in bringing the present ground up to date and making it all-seater. There will be mixed feelings at leaving an historic ground where many great players performed in the green, red and black.

Another managerial change occurred at Omagh Town, who finished 15th last season. They have reappointed Roy McCreadie as manager following Paul Kee's resignation.

As expected, the Irish League have confirmed the decision, taken last year, to divide into two divisions from season 1995-96. Each division will consist of eight clubs, with placings from last season and the coming one deciding which will be allocated to the Premier and First Divisions.

*ROY KITSON*

# New season, old question

**EVERY YEAR at this time, the same question is asked throughout Scottish football: who can challenge Rangers? But the longer times goes on, the more distant and elusive the answer becomes.**

Walter Smith's team did not win the domestic treble as expected last season, thanks to a spirited performance by Dundee United in the Scottish Cup Final, but they still took both the title and the League Cup without being fully extended.

The prospects for any sustained challenge being presented to the Ibrox club this season now appear even more remote as a result of summer transfer activities. The signings of Basile Boli from Marseille and Brian Laudrup from Fiorentina have merely added another imposing layer of invincibility to an apparently indomitable playing squad.

The close season, however, has not passed without its share of problems for Smith. He was anxious to finance the signings of Boli and Laudrup, and intended to raise cash by putting a selection of prominent players up for sale.

These included out-of-favour goalkeeper Andy Goram, apparently involved in an acrimonious disagreement with club management over training philosophy.

No bids, however, were received for any of those in the market place and Rangers must now continue not only to shoulder the burden of wages payable to such individuals but also to cope with the problems of an over-stocked player-pool, littered with overseas stars who, due to UEFA regulations, are unlikely to take part in European competition.

Of those on the transfer list, Goram must harbour the most optimistic outlook. His apparent rejection by Rangers could well turn out to be the best thing to have happened to him.

Reports suggest that Goram is paying more attention to his personal fitness than ever before and the public humiliation he suffered as a result of having a metaphorical "For Sale" sign hung round his neck appears to have provided the necessary spur for him to fight back.

Of the challenging clubs, Celtic have been the most prominent throughout the summer months, largely as a result of protracted speculation concerning their management since Lou Macari was sacked in June.

Suggestions that new Parkhead supremo Fergus McCann had approached both Bryan Robson and Kenny Dalglish for the vacant position were aired, but in the end the job went to former Celtic favourite Tommy Burns *(below)*, who has served a sound managerial apprenticeship with Kilmarnock.

Followers of the Scottish national team have looked on in envy as the dramas of the World Cup unfolded in the US.

For the first time since 1970, Scotland failed to qualify for the final stages of the tournament, and the fans could only look ahead to the forthcoming European Championship in the hope that Craig Brown's team can regain their ability to compete at a meaningful level.

*ALAN FAIRLEY*

# Wright angry at 'wrong' decision

**THE controversy that brought the Wales championship to a close continued long after on-field activity had ceased.**

As a result of the Konica National League fining Havefordwest County "only" the maximum £500, for fielding a weakened side in a vital game, Inter Cardiff's financial backing was withdrawn by supremo Rick Wright.

Their groundshare agreement with Cardiff City also was withdrawn. Wright had demanded County's expulsion — an unprecedented move — and Inter will return to Leckwith Stadium for this season.

Ironically, Haverfordwest later withdrew from the League, returning to Division II status in the Abacus League, because their new ground would not be ready until 1995-96. Offers of groundshares with Briton Ferry Athletic and Maesteg Park were refused and a home of sufficient standard failed to materialise.

As a result only Briton Ferry are relegated, with Rhyl FC and Barry Town being promoted. Barry Town have since negotiated the best sponsorship deal in Welsh football history, £100,000-plus with British Telecom.

Their forthcoming venture into the European Cup-winners Cup doubtless did a lot to enhance their appeal to a major sponsor, but having won all competitions entered last season could not have gone unnoticed either!

As the league enters its third season, interest is on the up both within Wales and world-wide. Three clubs in European competition — Barry, plus Bangor City and Inter Cardiff in the UEFA Cup — fully justify the FAW concept of a national league.

Unfortunately the saga of the "exiled"clubs — the three who have chosen to snub the national league in favour of English football — continues. They have decided to take the FAW to court on the matter, but now seem willing to let FIFA arbitrate.

The national side start the Euro Championship qualifying series with a home game against Albania. Hopes are high of a successful campaign, but the form of group opponents Germany and Bulgaria seems ominous.

*MEL AP IOR THOMAS*


# Step out in style for the new season!

THE new football season is almost with us, and to help you get off on the right foot *WORLD SOCCER* has teamed up with Reebok for this fantastic competition.

**First prize** is a pair of Reebok Integrity Pro boots, as worn by Newcastle hot-shot Andy Cole, which normally retail for £79.99.

There are also Reebok sweaters on offer as runners-up prizes for five lucky readers.

To enter the competition, simply study the question below and send your answer, together with your name and address, to Reebok Competition, *WORLD SOCCER*, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

Closing date for the competition is September 15.

All usual IPC Magazines competition rules apply

**QUESTION:** With which league club did Andy Cole begin his career?

# WORLD'S BEST AT WEMBLEY

**BRAZIL'S first major competitive challenge as world champions will come in England in May. The new World Cup-holders have been invited as main attractions in a six-team tournament which will be a dress rehearsal for the 1996 European Championship. Japan also will feature in the tournament to be played at Wembley and other venues to be used for the European Championship finals, being hosted by England.**

**Glen Kirton, organising director for the European Championship, said: "Invitations have gone out to a number of countries. Brazil and Japan have accepted and it would also be attractive if we had another country from the British Isles and top nations from Europe and Africa."**

**The tournament — to be called Euro '95 — will be played over 10 days at the end of May and beginning of June and will use as many of the Euro '96 grounds as possible. England last faced Brazil in a pre-World Cup competition in Washington last year, drawing 1-1.**

**The plan for the next year's tournament is to have two groups of three with the winners meeting in the final. Kirton said the tournament has a three-fold purpose — to test preparations for the European Championship, to give England international competition, and to provide the Football Association with a money-making exercise. So far, 100,000 tickets for the 1996 European finals have been sold.**

**The preliminary European clubs draw in Geneva — three days after the World Cup Final — unveiled the new Champions League format of the European Champions Cup.**

**The League will consist of four groups of four teams. At the Geneva draw the two top seeds for each group were chosen plus the eight preliminary round ties to select the other group entrants. The preliminary round takes place on a home-and-away basis in August, with group action starting in September.**

**Similarly, preliminary round draws took place for the Cup-winners Cup and for the enlarged UEFA Cup.**

**The draws for the "proper" first rounds of these latter two events will take place at the end of August.**

## European Cup draws

### 1994-95 CHAMPIONS CUP — CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

***Group One:*** *Manchester United (Eng), *Barcelona (Spa), Avenir Beggen (Lux) or Galatasaray (Tur), Sparta Prague (Cze) or IFK Gothenburg (Swe).

***Group Two:*** *Bayern Munich (Ger), *Moscow Spartak (Rus), Silkeborg IF (Den) or Kiev Dynamo (Ukr), Paris St Germain (Fra) or VAC FC Samsung (Hun).

***Group Three:*** *Benfica (Por), *Anderlecht (Bel), Steaua Bucharest (Rom) or Servette (Swi), Legia Warsaw (Pol) or Hajduk Split (Cro).

***Group Four:*** *Milan (Ita), *Ajax Amsterdam (Hol), Maccabi Haifa (Isr) or Salzburg (Aut), AEK Athens (Gre) or Rangers (Sco).

** denotes seeded teams*

***Preliminary round*** *(Aug 10 & 24):* Paris Saint Germain v VAC FC Samsung, Legia Warsaw v Hajduk Split, Steaua Bucharest v Servette, Sparta Prague v IFK Gothenburg, AEK Athens v Rangers, Maccabi Haifa v Casino Salzburg, Silkeborg v Kiev Dynamo, Avenir Beggen v Galatasaray.

### 1994-95 CUP-WINNERS CUP — *Preliminary round*

***(Aug 11 & 25):*** FC Pirin (Bul) v Schaan (Lie), Norma Tallinn (Est) v Maribor Branik (Sloven), Fandok Bobruisk (Bye) v Tirana (Alb), Tiligul Tiraspol (Mol) v Omonia Nicosia (Cyp), Ferencvaros (Hun) v F91 Dudelange (Lux), Floriana (Mal) v Sligo Rovers (RI), Barry Town (Wal) v Zhalgiris Vilnius (Lit), Bodo Glimt (Nor) v Olimpija Riga (Lat), Viktoria Zizkov (Cz) v IFK Norrkoping (Swe), Sandoyar Itrottarfelag (FI) v HJK Helsinki (Fin), IBK Keflavik (Ice) v Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr), Bangor (NI) v Tatran Presov (Slovak).

### 1994-95 UEFA CUP — *Preliminary round*

***(Aug 9 & 23):*** Slavia Prague (Cze) v Cork City (RI), Motherwell (Sco) v Havnar Boltfelag (FI), FC Copenhagen (Den) v FC Jazz (Fin), Portadown (NI) v Slovan Bratislava (Slovak), Bangor City (Wal) v IA Akranes (Ice), Anjalankoski (Fin) v Inter Bratislava (Slovak), Odense BK (Den) v Flora Tallinn (Est), Lillestrom (Nor) v Shakhtor Donetsk (Ukr), Gotu Itrottarfelag (FI) v Trelleborg (Swe), Gornik Zabrze (Pol) v Shamrock Rovers (RI), FC Romar (Lit) v AIK Stockholm (Swe), Hafnarfjordur (Ice) v Linfield (NI), Skonto Riga (Lat) v Aberdeen (Sco), Inter Cardiff (Wal) v GKS Katowice (Pol), Rosenborg (Nor) v CS Grevenmacher (Lux), Aarau (Swi) v FC Mura (Sloven), Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) v FC Shumen (Bul), Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v Universitatea Craiova (Rom), Vardar Skopje (Mac) v Bekescsaba (Hun), Olimpija Ljubljana (Sloven) v Levski Sofia (Bul), Fenerbahce (Tur) v Touran (Azb), Valletta (Mal) v Rapid Bucurest (Rom), Kispest Honved (Hun) v Zimbrul Chisinau (Mol), Ararat Erevan (Arm) v CSKA Sofia (Bul), Minsk Dynamo (Bye) v Hibernians (Mal), Teuta (Alb) v Apollon (Cyp), Aris Salonika (Gre) v Hapoel Beer Sheva (Isr).

BY PADDY AGNEW

# Bank on MILAN

Returning son . . . Ruud Gullit returns to Milan after one great season at Sampdoria.

**ON a hot Wednesday morning last July, Milan coach Fabio Capello summoned the sports press for a pre-season presentation of the squad with which the reigning Italian champions will this season attempt to win a record-equalling fourth consecutive title.**

Capello has never been one to needlessly blow the Milan trumpet.

On this occasion, he attempted to put things in perspective with a series of flattering observations about his major rivals: "We have plenty of rivals and they're all dangerous.

"Juventus have changed management and players, Parma have spent heavily in the transfer market [i.e. bought Dino Baggio from Juventus], and I will be watching Lazio closely because they have a midfield and attack of huge potential.

"Then there's Inter, they're a side with great players and with a coach called [Ottavio] Bianchi who has always been able to get the most out of the players given to him.

"On top of that, I wouldn't like to underate Sampdoria, who have bought Alessandro Melli and Sinisa Mihajlovic."

Oh yeah, Fabio, pull the other one.

The reality about the 1994-95 Italian championship is that Milan start as the incontrovertible and logical favourites. Capello's cautious words about his opponents are typical of his level-headed yet shrewd management style but they were put into a more realistic perspective by an opinion poll carried out by the sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport* among his 17 First Division colleagues, 15 of whom named Milan as the title favourites.

In assessing the new Italian season, you have to start with Milan and with the obvious observation that, until we have evidence to the contrary, the reigning European champions remain the side to beat. Indeed, there are a number of good reasons for suggesting that Milan, 1994-95 vintage, will be even better than the sides who have gone before them.

Firstly, there is the return of prodigal son, Ruud Gullit, whose 15-goal season last year at Sampdoria coincided with him playing the best soccer of his career.

Milan wanted their star back so badly that they agreed to pay $1.9 million for a player who, only 12 months previously, they had sold for the UEFA regulation fee of $700,000.

Gullit returns to a Milan where the tensions created by last season's roster of six foreigners appear to have been greatly eased by the sales of Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin (Bayern Munich), Romanian Florin Raducioiu (Espanol) and Dane Brian Laudrup (Rangers).

Essentially, Gullit returns to a Milan where there are four foreigners in contention for three places — Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, Croat Zvonimir Boban, Frenchman Marcel Desailly and Gullit.

Given injuries and suspensions, the likelihood is that all four foreigners should get enough games to avoid the sort of rivalries and tensions which prompted Gullit's original decision to leave Milan last year.

Certainly, both Gullit and Savicevic have gone out of their way to prevent future strife, arguing that there will be room for everyone. Coach Capello, by the way, claims that he will begin the season with this pair in attack, adding that if they work out, he might stick with them.

Other coaches should be so lucky.

Savicevic's end-of-season and Champions Cup Final form are other good reasons for forecasting a splendid Milan year.

After a miserable first season with the champions, spent largely in the grandstand, Savicevic came of age last season, rounding off a fine springtime with that excellent game against Barcelona in Athens.

If he continues on in that vein, then Milan will be all the stronger.

The purchases of Giovanni Stroppa (from Foggia), Massimo Orlando (Fiorentina) and Gianluca Sordo (Torino) are other reasons for suggesting that Milan could be stronger than ever this year.

Stroppa, for instance, could well be asked to immediately take over the right midfield berth, left vacant by the injured Stefano Eranio and by Gigi Lentini, still struggling to regain his best form following that near-fatal car accident a year ago.

In the end, it was the one Milan player certain NOT to be playing this autumn, Dutchman Marco Van Basten (currently recovering from a July ankle operation on which his career prospects hang perilously), who highlighted the side's only possible problems when saying that it remained to be seen just how Italy's exhausting World Cup campaign would effect the seven Milan squad members. "An exhausting World Cup like this summer's is hard to absorb and could make itself felt in a season in which Milan will be chasing six different trophies," said Van Basten.

So, what about the others, if and when the mighty Milan were to finally fall?

Juventus are the logical second choice and they start the season with a bright new line-up which ranges from new club president, ex-star player Roberto Bettega, through to new coach, Marcello Lippi (formerly Cesena, Atalanta and Napoli) and includes the new player talent of Frenchman Didier Deschamps (Marseille), Portugal's Paulo Sousa (Sporting Lisbon), Croat Robert Jarni (Torino) and Napoli's ex-captain Ciro Ferrara.

On top of that, Juventus will field one Roberto Baggio, sure to have been galvanised by hunting in Argentina and sharpshooting at USA '94.

Then, too, Juventus field a little-known Italian striker called Gianluca Vialli *(left)*, a man with much to prove after a miserable, injury-interrupted season in which he played only 10 league games for Juventus, thus ruling himself out of the World Cup.

Third choice has to be Parma, fifth in the league and beaten by Arsenal in the Cup-winners Cup Final last season.

The fact that no less than 10 current Parma players featured in this summer's World Cup finals says much about the club's overall strength.

Joining the existing foreign trio of

# KAZU'S COSTLY CHALLENGE

## Playing in Italy costs him a fortune

**FOR the second time, Kazuyoshi Miura has left Japan to seek his football fortune — a vastly reduced fortune — overseas.**

**Miura, Japan's most lauded striker, has taken his talents to Genoa, where he is set to become the first Asian ever to play in the Serie A.**

**He is well equipped to be the pioneer. When he was 15 he crossed to Brazil alone, learned Portuguese and signed professional forms with Santos four years later. Kazu established himself in the first team, then returned to Japan in July 1990, at the age of 23, with the 1994 World Cup in his sights.**

**His life can be ticked off in four-year periods. The next four years produced 21 goals in 36 "A" matches for Japan. He helped his country to win the Dynasty and Asian Cups, and almost to qualify for the World Cup, too. He was voted Player of the Year in Japan and Asia, and Player of the Season in the first J.League.**

**Kazu captained Verdy Kawasaki to the first J.League Suntory Championship, and to consecutive wins in the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup. He did not miss a match, scoring 36 times in 58 appearances, seemingly immune to all the kicks, and was never booked.**

**He married a model-cum-actress in August 1993, and is reported to have an annual income in the range of $2.4 million.**

**How could he give up a lifestyle like that? Quite easily! He insists. "Italy was always on my mind, even at the age of 15."**

**He has lived the life of a schoolboy hero. Now, he wants to play in the world's best league. To Kazu, that makes perfect sense even though he is said to be taking an 80 per cent cut in income in order to play in Genoa — the Japanese media reported his one-year loan contract to be worth $500,000 to Kazu and a $1 million to Verdy.**

**Clearly he is going for the football, and not for the money. But then he is not exactly strapped for cash.**

**"I got so many letters from fans asking me not to go," he says. "But it is for the best. For Japanese football, for the fans, and for me."**

**Perhaps, too, life in the J.League was getting too comfortable. With the World Cup dream over for another four years, Kazu needed a fresh challenge.**

**"Genoa's recent results haven't been so good, but the team have history, the supporters are fanatical and the press say what they think. I want to come back mentally stronger."**

**Kazu had an offer from Lazio as well as Genoa, but Verdy did not want to release their biggest star. Their unwillingness grew as it became clear that they were not going to win the J.League's first stage this year, making victory in the second stage vital if they are to retain the championship.**

**Repeated appeals to the club's president in June finally persuaded Verdy to bend. Kazu knew that at 27, the chance might not come again.**

**He has had opportunities to find out if he is good enough. He played for a World XI against Milan last December, in Italy, and for Japan against**

*CONTINUED OVER*

Asian ace . . . Japan's Kazuyoshi Miura will be the first Oriental to play in the Serie A.

Colombian Fausto Asprilla, Argentinian Nestor Sensini and Swede Tomas Brolin will be the Portuguese player, Fernando Couto (FC Porto), while Parma pulled off arguably the single most important Italian player deal of the summer when signing Dino Baggio *(above)* from Juventus.

Internazionale again pin their hopes on Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk, both slow starters last season but both players who may have difficulty adapting to the cautious ways of coach Ottavio Bianchi, formerly with Napoli and AS Roma.

Macedonian Darko Pancev, Russian Igor Shalimov and Uruguyan Ruben Sosa have all survived attempts to offload them elsewhere, all clearly believing that they will play their way into the side.

Inter, however, appear to have strengthened the side with the signings of Italy's World Cup goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca (Sampdoria), Gianluca Festa (AS Roma), Giovanni Bia (Napoli) and Andrea Seno (Foggia).

Lazio, often amongst the most entertaining sides in the league last season, have added impressive Argentinian defender Jose Chamot *(right)* to a squad which already contained a potent attack in the shape of the league's leading 23-goal scorer, Giuseppe Signori, flanked by Croat Alen Boksic and by Italy's World Cup striker, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Lazio, too, still have the remarkable Mr Paul Gascoigne on their books.

Reportedly joking and pranking to the best of his ability at pre-season training, Gascoigne is currently recovering from a right-leg break, sustained in April, and said recently that he hoped to return to competitive soccer early in the New Year. Lazio's Rome rivals, AS Roma, also merit a weather eye if only because of their busy market activity.

They have been busy in the transfer market and have bought Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca ($12 million from Napoli), Sweden's Jonas Thern (also from Napoli), Marco Branca, Francesco Statuto (both Udinese), Benito Carbone, Enrico Annoni (both Torino) and Francesco Moriero (Cagliari) to name but the most expensive.

After a disasterous mid-season run last year when the team went 14 games without a win, Roma coach Carlo Mazzone recovered with a fine end-of-season showing which almost got the side into this season's UEFA Cup.

If Mazzone can blend the talents of such as Fonseca with one of the two Argentinians, Abel Balbo or Claudio Caniggia in attack, then the experience of Thern in midfield and of Brazil's Aldair in defence could make them a very handy little outsider.

As always, too, there are a clutch of newly arrived foreigners to watch out for, including the Portuguese player Rui Costa (Fiorentina), the Colombian Guerrero (newly promoted Bari), the first ever Japanese player, Kazuyoshi Miura (Genoa), the Brazilians Cruz (Napoli) and Marcio Santos (Fiorentina), the Nigerian Sunday Oliseh (Reggiana), the American Alexi Lalas (Padova) and Ghana's Abedi Pele (Torino).

At the world's "most beautiful championship", the show takes to the boards again.

# LALAS *on the rise*

**LAST Christmas time, Alexi Lalas was holed up in a hotel in London, feeling lonely and rejected. A trial with Arsenal had not worked out, and he was going back to the US, apparently without much future.**

The despair did not last long. He was called up to the United States national team, and quickly became one of coach Bora Milutinovic's favourites. He played every minute of all four US games in the finals — and overnight he was a star.

Suddenly, foreign clubs were falling over themselves for his services. "It's incredible," said Sunil Gulati of the United States Soccer Federation (which owns Lalas's contract). "We've had more interest in Alexi than any other player we've ever had. It's not even close."

Incredible seemed an adequate word. Here was a player who had never been with a professional club in his life, had never won anything, being frantically sought on the basis of his performance in only four games.

Lalas's massive (6 feet 3 inches, 14 stone) build and his red hair and straggly goatee beard certainly made him very noticeable. "The love child of Phyllis Diller and Rasputin" was one description.

Nor has his playing style met with universal acclaim. His efforts to stop Romario in the Brazil game were described by one journalist as like watching "an ostrich trying to stamp on an eel", while another writer (this one) thought his efforts on the field looked like "John Cleese auditioning for Swan Lake."

But then 24-year-old Lalas has never claimed to be the most elegant, or the most skillful, of defenders. "There are guys on the US team with more skill in their little finger than I have" he has charmingly admitted.

He has described himself as a "rugged centreback". When *The New York Times* published a feature on him, the exultant headline contained the words "Boy, Can He Bodycheck!" That is an ice hockey term to describe a clumsy, barging move illegal in soccer.

Illegal or not, it was an accurate description of Lalas's approach to the game. "I'm lucky," he told a TV interviewer, "I get paid for doing what I like. I like hitting people."

Milutinovic seems to like that, too, remarking that whenever there is trouble Lalas quietens everyone down.

Neither Milutinovic nor any of his assistant coaches has ever been heard to praise Lalas for ball skills. Milutinovic likes his aggressive attitude, once comparing him to disgraced ice- skater Tonya Harding. Assistant coach Timo Liekoski had this to say before the World Cup: "Lalas is more skilful than people give him credit for. He hasn't been a liability, with or without the ball. He can look a clumsy tackler at times . . ."

But Lalas has scored five goals for the US, going up on set plays. As he did against England in the 1993 US Cup, to head the second goal in a surprise 2-0 win.

But the element of clumsiness was there, even in that. The ball bounced off the side of Lalas' head; it was a few moments before Lalas, turning round, realised what he had done.

In the World Cup, he slammed the ball into the net against Colombia — only to have the goal, perfectly legitimate — ruled out by a bad offside call.

Off the field, it's a vastly different story. No clumsiness here. He is an intelligent young man, with a wonderfully light sense of humour. During the World Cup he quickly became a favourite on TV talk shows with his articulate, honest answers. More: Lalas is a musician, a guitar player with his own rock group, The Gypsies, who have an album (produced and financed by Lalas) on the market. He has sung the national anthem before US national team games.

Lalas, without question, is a highly marketable athlete. But the question marks over his playing ability remain. When Coventry were trying to sign him, manager Phil Neal remarked that the club were genuinely interested, adding "This is not a publicity stunt." Why would he feel it necessary to say that?

Nothing for Lalas to worry about. He had his choice between Coventry, VfL Bochum in Germany, and Padova in Italy. Characteristically, he chose the most exciting, Padova, and became the first American to join an Italian club.

Now he must face the likes of Baggio and Vialli and Bergkamp and Sosa and Boksic and Balbo and Batistuta and Signori and Fonseca and Rincon and Brolin. And others.

Lalas has the chance to make his detractors eat their words. But if things don't work out, he is only on loan to Padova (for a $750,000 fee, it is believed). The USSF still own his contract and would no doubt welcome him back to join a club in the proposed new pro league, Major League Soccer, due to start in April 1995.

*PAUL GARDNER*

Guitar man . . . Lalas the musician, leader of rock group The Gypsies.

Running man . . . Lalas the player in action against Brazil's Romario (11) at USA '94.

**Juventus and Verdy against Milan. He has proved his credentials as Asia's top player.**

**He is fit and there should be no problem with speed — the J.League is fast. There is no question about his dribbling, passing and marksmanship.**

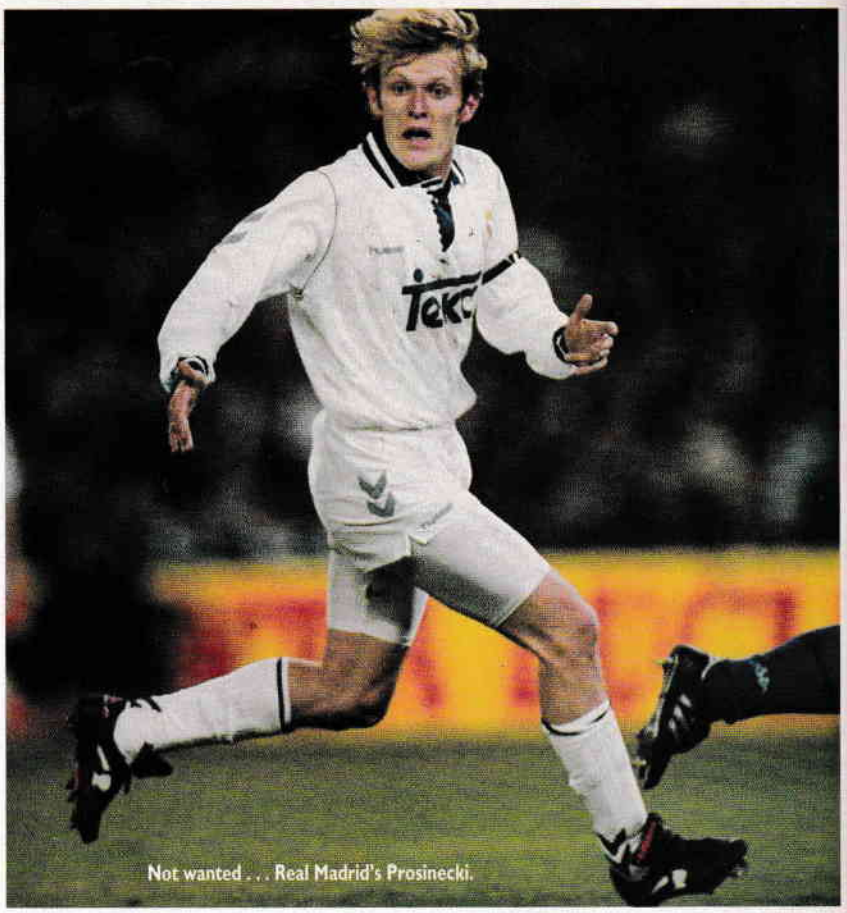
**But the demands of teamwork will be higher than in the J.League, and possibly higher than at Santos. Defences also will be better. As Kazu says: "I'll have to adjust to the Italian rhythm. I intend to do so. I'll do my best for Asia and Japan."**

**He should return to Japan as a better player; and he will want to use those skills four years from now to qualify for the 1998 World Cup.**

**Japan's top-paid professional thinks very like a gentleman amateur. But for those who know Japanese football, that should be no surprise.**

*MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA*

BY GRAHAM TURNER


Not wanted . . . Real Madrid's Prosinecki.

# QUESTIONS
## *here, there and everywhere*

THE THEORY may be decorated with more or less literary touches, but the basic principle is that if there aren't any question marks, life must be pretty boring.

The Spanish close season has produced so many question marks that there's hardly enough room left for coherent words.

The only safe opening gambit is the earth-shattering suggestion that Barcelona and Real Madrid might be in with something of a shout in the title race, but, even here, gauging the level of decibels is a major challenge.

Johan Cruyff, having relied on third parties to clinch the last three league titles, has opted for what seems like a risky partial-demolition job which could bring down the Barcelona structure.

Real, having opted to base their rebuilding on Jorge Valdano's managerial skills, are a promising, potentially exciting unknown quantity.

A measure of the summertime uncertainties is that the buying and selling which should have been buttoned up long ago has dragged on, on, on and on. Many teams embarked on their pre-season training schedules with gaping holes in the team roster and several names pencilled in.

Can Julen Lopetegui of Logrones persuade Barca fans to forget Andoni Zubizarreta? Will Romario, Stoichkov and their Spanish supporting cast have to pay for their World Cup efforts? Will Bakero, Beguiristain, Goikoetxea and other players offered as makeweights in aborted transfer deals now be prepared to give heart and soul to the club? And who will replace Michael Laudrup?

In the news . . . three of the World Cup's top performers Romario (left), Hagi (centre) and Stoichkov (right).

Other holes have been filled, but only time will tell us whether the pegs are round or square. Salinas (Deportivo) has been replaced by Escaich, a young striker who failed to uproot trees at Espanol and Sporting Gijon. Quique Estebaranz's late departure for Sevilla left Christiansen wondering whether to go on loan to Santander or stay put and hope to play.

Bids for Eskurza (Bilbao), Alkiza (Real Sociedad) and Rui Costa (Benfica) have been under the hammer all summer.

But Laudrup's departure for Real Madrid — the clubs have now agreed a comprise solution to the controversy surrounding Barcelona's claim for a £1million transfer fee — has given Cruyff headaches, and at the time of writing, he has yet to hit on the right analgesic.

When Rui Costa opted for Parma, he dispatched his assistant Toni Bruins to Los Angeles to tap up Hagi while, at the same time, negotiating with Prosinecki, whom Real were keen to strike off the wage bill.

Both stories developed into soap operas and Real, on learning that Prosinecki had been to Barcelona for talks and a medical check, got into such a lather that they suspended him for negotiating with another club while under contract.

"Robby" checked into the Bernabeu stadium for the first training session under Valdano — watched by 50,000 fans — only to be informed he was persona non grata.

Hagi, in the meantime, was trying to persuade Brescia to accept a lower offer (£2million) from Barcelona, adamant that he couldn't see much sugar on the pill offered by Tottenham, or perhaps too much of it.

Then, having persuaded Barcelona to equal his £3,200-a-week wages at Brescia, he arrived in Nou Camp only to discover that the delicious dosh, unlike the Italian club's terms, was not tax-free.

So, unwilling to accept that 40 per cent of his revenue was going inland to Madrid, he walked out — leaving his agent, Giovanni Becali, in Barcelona to keep the soap bubbling. In the end, Hagi duly signed.

More interest centres on speculating how either of the two ex-

# NEW BOSSES SEEKING SHAPE

**TWO World Cup managers will be trying to knock some shape into would-be title contenders. Carlos Alberto Parreira has inherited a potentially-strong Valencia squad, reinforced in attack by Salenko and in defence by Zubizarreta.**

Here the question marks surround the recovery of striker Lubo Penev after his operation and chemotherapy treatment for cancer of a testicle, plus the future of Romanian World Cup sweeper Belodedici, who is transfer-listed.

Francisco Maturana, badly affected by Colombia's poor showing in the US and the subsequent rumours of drug cartel connections, takes over the mother of all hot-seats at Manzanares.

He is aiming to capitalise on the midfield talents of Simeone and Caminero, two players who looked good in the World Cup. Atletico Madrid's chances, however, depend once again on the degree of intervention by club president Jesus Gil.

Deportivo La Coruna, so close in the last two seasons, have made only modest retouches to a squad who might suffer the after-effects of Bebeto's and Mauro Silva's World Cup efforts.

Julio Salinas's signing is a bid to end over-reliance on Bebeto, and Villarroya (Real Madrid) is to give left-sided cover to Nando.

Sevilla's manager, Luis Aragones, feels that the signings of sweeper Juanito, plus midfielders Moacir and Pedro, can fuel UEFA Cup ambitions, but they have to contend with rivals such as John Toshack's Real Sociedad, who intelligently reinforced midfield and attack with Russia's Valeri Karpin and Mexico's Luis Garcia.

Elsewhere, more teams seem to have lost ground rather than gained. Cup runners-up Celta Vigo have lost half their squad. Camacho's Espanol have gambled heavily on the scoring ability of Romania's Raducioiu and the midfield talents of former Yugslav international Brnovic, but have not strengthened the defence.

And the most glaring example of blood-letting has take place at Logrones, who started the pre-season with only a handful of players and promptly sacked the captain, Martin, for complaining. Salenko and nine others have left, with manager Carlos Aimar, replaced by unknown quantity Blagoje Paunovic.

Such disarray in the Rioja country is good news for other clubs whose dreams are mostly about survival.

Newly-promoted Real Betis and Compostela underpin their modest foundations with sheer enthusiasm and industry, although the latter have surprisingly landed Danish international striker Bent Christensen.

Club budgets are subject to belt-tightening and even the Big Two have contemplated only a modest increase which will take turnover past the £40million mark.

The sweeping changes at managerial and playing-staff levels have at least generated enough question marks to make predictions risky and to keep us all guessing during a long, hard season which will drag on until June 18.

To La Coruna . . . Julio Salinas.

**Real Madrid players will fit Cruyff's scheme. Both will want to play. And it has to be borne in mind that Laudrup was the foreigner who ended the season on the bench or, in the case of the Athens final, in the stand.**

**The signing of World Cup sweeper Abelardo suggests that Koeman will be getting less football this year and a front force of Romario and Stoichkov prompted by Hagi is certainly mouth-watering . . . provided Cruyff can achieve the right balance to accommodate three large egos and three minuscule contributions to boiler-suited tasks like ball-winning.**

**Real also have had their workforce problems. Prosinecki's value has been slashed to the point where he is judged on his nuisance rating. Zamorano has refused to leave even though Valdano has announced "if we have five foreigners, he will be the fifth. If we have seven strikers, he will be the seventh."**

**Valdano insists that Slovak striker Dubovski has more of a future, using the old precept that a left-footer is better equipped than Zamorano to capitalise on Michel's crosses from the right.**

**Redondo, another left-footer, and Laudrup are the obvious candidates to organise a Real revival which, Valdano insists, will be based on providing good football above all else.**

**"The figure of the manager and his tactics have been magnified out of all proportion," he says. "My philosophy will be to mark out the ground rules for the players to accept more responsibilities and enjoy themselves."**

**The left-foot-first principles also apply to Real's protracted attempts to pry Ruben Sosa from Internazionale.**

**He makes no bones about his differences with Bergkamp, but the old cowboy adage "this town ain't big enough for both of us" has cut little ice with Inter directors keen to cash in on a proven performer.**

**Another soap which might take a dramatic turn or two while *WORLD SOCCER* is at the printers.**

Men on the move

## major transfers

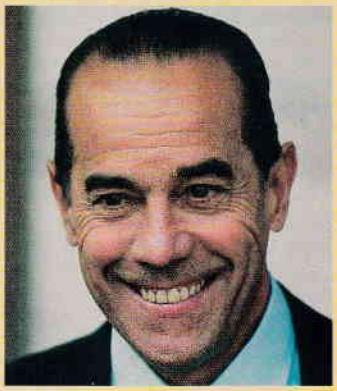
| PLAYER | FROM | TO |
|---|---|---|
| Abelardo | Sporting Gijon | Barcelona |
| Lopetegui | Logrones | Barcelona |
| Simeone | Sevilla | Atletico Madrid |
| Redondo | Tenerife | Real Madrid |
| Laudrup | Barcelona | Real Madrid |
| Amavisca | Valladolid | Real Madrid |
| Canizares | Celta Vigo | Real Madrid |
| Zubizarreta | Barcelona | Valencia |
| Otero | Celta Vigo | Valencia |
| Salenko | Logrones | Valencia |
| Poyatos | Logrones | Valencia |
| Dertycia | Tenerife | Albacete |
| Quique Flores | Valencia | Real Madrid |

To Sociedad . . . Luis Garcia.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Luis Garcia | At. Madrid | Real Sociedad |
| Karpin | Moscow Spartak | Real Sociedad |
| Raducioiu | Milan | Espanol |
| Brnovic | Partizan Belgrade | Espanol |
| Juanele | Sporting Gijon | Tenerife |
| Juanito | At. Madrid | Sevilla |
| Moacir | At. Madrid | Sevilla |
| Rocha | Valladolid | At. Madrid |
| Pier | Tenerife | Sporting Gijon |
| Pochettino | Newell's Old Boys | Espanol |
| Salinas | Barcelona | La Coruna |
| Christensen | Olympiakos | Compostela |
| Escaich | Sporting Gijon | Barcelona |
| Estebaranz | Barcelona | Sevilla |
| Juan Carlos | Barcelona | Valencia |

In the hot seat

## new managers


To Albacete . . . Luis Suarez.

| | |
|---|---|
| Real Madrid | Jorge Valdano |
| Celta Vigo | Carlos Aimar |
| Logrones | Blagoje Paunovic |
| Athletic Bilbao | Javier Irureta |
| Valencia | Carlos Alberto Parreira |
| Atletico Madrid | Francisco Maturana |
| Valladolid | Victor Esparrago |
| Tenerife | Vicente Cantatore |
| Racing Santander | Vicente Miera |
| Albacete | Luis Suarez |

GERMANY

# Europe the target for 'Trap'

**MUNICH, capital of Bavaria, is again the bastion of German football, the only city with two First Division clubs.**

Bayern won their record 13th title — the 12th in the Bundesliga since promotion in 1965 — and TSV 1860, one of the original members of the Bundesliga in 1963, won promotion at last after 13 years in the dumps.

In an effort to streamline the top leagues the Second Division will for the first time feature 18 clubs, like the First.

The four regional Leagues, South, West-Southwest, North and North-East, all amateur, also were to start with 18, but in the North-East section 1.FC Markkleeberg were declared bankrupt, so this division will comprise 17.

After yet another thumping rise in average attendances to 26,484 per match — the best since 1965 — interest for the coming season has again surpassed all expectations despite the World Cup disappointment.

As usual Borussia Dortmund led the way, confident of selling a record 20,000 season tickets. Bayern were not far behind, while several clubs reported constant inquiries and even queues.

Bayern are automatically qualified for the Champions League as No. 4 seeds, and their personnel changes point to an all-out effort to win the European Cup last acclaimed in Munich back in 1976.

A lot will depend on the speed with which new team manager Giovanni Trapattoni will adapt to German football. He is the first Italian to coach in the Bundesliga and does not speak the language. But his references are impeccable.

He won 17 caps as a midfielder, and as a coach he includes all three European competitions among his 16 national and international trophies. Trapattoni, now 55, will lean on the strongest squad in Bayern's recent history, for the club splashed out to get the best players they could.

French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, a former European Footballer of the Year has come from Milan, the country's best goalkeeper, Oliver Kahn from Karlsruhe, and Swiss World Cup midfielder Alain Sutter from Nurnberg. This trio alone cost over £5million. The "leavers" include keeper Raimond Aumann (to Besiktas of Istanbul) and midfielder Olaf Thon (to Schalke 04).

The competition with TSV 1860 should stimulate the Bayern stars and guarantee two full houses for the derby matches. As Bayern captain Lothar Matthaus observed: "The Lions will take some of the pressure off us."

TSV Munich 1860 are back among the elite, some 12 years after they were dumped into an amateur league, having been refused a professional licence in the Second Division because of financial problems.

One of their former stars, veteran international Rudi Voller, has shown interest in rejoining, but he wanted £800,000.

"That's more than the whole team earns," declared chairman Karl-Heinz Wildmoser. "But if Rudi's salary can be financed by a sponsor then we can discuss terms". Bayern's main challengers probably will be runners up Kaiserslautern, who report the arrival of striker Olaf Marschall, from Dynamo Dresden. He came with midfielder Peter Nowak.

But Kaiserslautern's Swiss international midfielder, Ciriaco Sforza, may not be going to Lazio after all.

The Italians, apparently, were not willing to pay the demanded £4million. The Lauterer, who have no debts, are not in a hurry to off-load such a valuable player.

Eintracht Frankfurt too, will provide strong competition for honours.

They have a new team manager, Jupp Heynckes and some new players, including international keeper Andreas Kopke (Nurnberg) and striker Thorsten Legat (Werder Bremen).

Uwe Bein is moving to Japan, and Uli Stein has left for Hamburg.

**Still a threat . . . Eintracht Frankfurt's management team Bernd Holzenbein and Jupp Heynckes (left).**

**Still dangerous . . . Bayern Munich's Jean-Pierre Papin (above).**

**Still in Germany . . . Ciriaco Sforza of Kaiserslautern (right).**

AUSTRIA

# Salzburg celebrate in style

**THE party organised by Austria Salzburg to celebrate their first League championship triumph lasted for three days.**

No doubt the boys from "Mozart City" deserved the title, and by reaching the UEFA Cup Final they fired the imagination of fans in the whole country. Remarkably, a club in debt to the tune of over £2million turned themselves into one of the most profitable outfits in Austria in one season.

Team manager Otto Baric is planning to sign one or two players for the new season and will not have to beg for the money.

The only problem is the delay in gaining planning permission to extend the capacity of the small Lehen Stadium. That is why the Salzburger will continue to stage all their European ties in Vienna.

In contrast the big Viennese clubs are lamenting lack of support and financial shortages.

Rapid, threatened with bankruptcy, start virtually from scratch and new team manager Ernst Dokupil (he replaced Hubert Baumgartner) will have to build a team from young "cheap" talents.

Dethroned champions FK Austria won the OFB Cup for the 22nd time by beating Second Division FC Linz 4-0. But three days later team chief Josef Hickersberger was relieved of his duties.

His successor is the German Egon Coordes, lately boss of Hamburg.

Wacker Innsbruck fired their German chief, Horst Koppel, whose contract was until 1995 but was terminated prematurely. Innsbruck have been shaken by internal problems — two presidents came and went, as did half-a-dozen board members and now the manager has gone too.

Six coaches in two could not lift the former leading club. Now the redoubtable Hans Krankl, who led modest VfB Modling to promotion, has taken over.

*ARTHUR ROTMIL*

SWITZERLAND

# Gross confounds the critics

**SWISS footballers made heroic headlines by playing for the national side and did well in the World Cup, but the domestic game is still substandard.**

Nothing illustrates the sorry state of affairs better than the Cup Final, in which Grasshopper beat Second Division Schaffhausen in one of the poorest finals in the past 40 years.

Over 100 stoppages, half of them because of fouls, did not allow any flow or rhythm in a boring game watched by only 12,000 fans.

As the country's leading specialised paper, *Sport Zurich*, put it: "To describe this spectacle as kick-and-rush would be flattering!"

Schaffhausen attempted to stifle their more famous opponents with an offside trap. Clearly the part-timers, having reached this stage thanks largely to the luck of the draw, did not fancy meeting the more experienced "Hoppers" and seemed more intent on keeping the score down.

In the League, hopes have risen that the coming championship will be more exciting since such established clubs as Basel and St Gallen returned to the upper sphere, while Xamax Neutchatel and FC Zurich survived the relegation pool and stayed up.

The Manager of the Year is Christian Gross of Grasshopper, who confirmed his talent and confounded the critics by nearly winning the double. Only one point separated them from the new champions, Servette.

Despite the loss of key men such as Kozle, Sutter, Sforza and Elber, he kept faith with young talent, and succeeded.

*ARTHUR ROTMIL*

FINLAND

# Kolkaa's a real find

**MyPa of Myllykoski have been leading the Finnish Premier Division almost from the beginning.**

The team, last season's runners-up, have the best defence in the country, with international Petri Jakonen giving fine performances in goal.

Up front, coach Harri Kampman has found perhaps Finland's brightest young talent at the moment in Joonas Kolkka, a 19-year-old who is quick, with excellent close control.

FC Jazz have lost one of their Brazilians, Rodrico, through injury, but have replaced him with fellow-countryman Cardoso. Another Brazilian, Dionisio, rejected last year by FC Jazz, has been scoring regularly for TPV Tampere.

Former national striker Jari Rantanene's future is in jeopardy after he fractured his skull in a collision with a goalkeeper. But he promised to be back, even if he had to wear a baseball helmet!

HOLLAND

# De-luxe problems

**DICK ADVOCAAT, the "little general" of Dutch football has to get his skates on in search of enough good players so that he can send out a European Championship message: "England here we come".**

Holland reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup, but now Ronald Koeman and Jan Wouters have announced their retirement from the national team. They were key players in the Dutch defensive system, and will be hard to replace.

Nothing is certain about what Frank Rijkaard plans to do. But then nothing ever is in football. Things can change overnight. Such as the so-called "comeback" by Ruud Gullit!

Advocaat got it more or less right at the back against Brazil, but as he knows so well it is difficult to find class defenders in Holland, simply because the Dutch stick to attacking football.

It would be crazy to suggest *catenaccio*, the infamous style of Italy — and Italian clubs — a few years ago. That provided the goalkeeper with around nine players close enough to have a chat.

The same applies to the old system used by Belgium, Holland's neighbours. Most of their game was played in their opponents' half of the pitch, diplomatically described as the "offside trap".

Had they continued with this system they could have reached a stage where they were playing in empty stadiums.

Holland would not and could not even attempt such systems, but they could learn from Brazil.

No way are the Brazilians in the same class as they were in the golden days of Pele, but — and this is a vital — they have closed their back door and can fight against opponents in a more aggressive manner.

This might apply particularly to Ajax, the champions, this season. Chief coach Louis Van Gaal has done a fine job for the club, taking them back into the top European competition, but if they play their normal open, attacking football, they will stand little chance of success.

Ajax often have been described as the club with de-luxe problems because they have too many class players. How many of them are, or ever have been, top defenders?

Maybe Van Gaal should think back to one particular game last season, when PSV, their arch rivals, beat them 4-1, simply by marking, tackling AND intercepting virtually every Ajax pass. The Ajax answer? They didn't have a clue!

For PSV, this is a season of new faces. They include Stanley Menzo, the former Ajax and Holland goalkeeper, and Belgian international midfielder Luc Nilis, signed from Anderlecht.

Chief coach Aad de Mos is getting down to the hard job of putting PSV back on top.

*ERIC NICHOLLS*

Still going forward . . . Holland have a shortage of top-class defenders.

SWEDEN

# Roll on 1998!

**SWEDEN is still bubbling after the team's third place in the World Cup finals — probably the country's greatest soccer achievement.**

Olympic gold in 1948 and World Cup bronze and silver in 1950 and 1958 respectively became insignificant compared with the triumphant march in the US.

Sweden's success looked unlikely, but Svensson saw it differently. "Reaching the semi-finals of Euro '92 was the turning point for Swedish soccer," he says. "It gave us a platform on which to build."

After the disappointments of Italia '90, where Sweden lost all three matches, there has been a marked change in mood in the camp.

Svensson inherited a dejected team, players whose confidence had been rattled by the likes of Scotland and Costa Rica, and injected new ideas, a positive way of thinking.

"For the past six months we have worked at the basic aspects of the game harder than any other country," Svensson says without boasting.

Even the tiniest piece of information that might help the team's cause is picked up. Various scientists and medical experts have been consulted. Svensson is a video fanatic, who spends hours editing tapes and studying the styles of his own players and opponents. And not for nothing, for Sweden's opening goal in the quarter-final against Romania stemmed from Svensson's observation that, when defending against a free-kick, the Romanians tended to leave extra space at the end of their wall.

So when everyone was expecting a left-footed piledriver from Stefan Schwarz, the ball was placed to the right, past the wall, and Brolin was in.

While Svensson was busy flying all over Europe watching his foreign-based stars, his lieutenants — Tord Grip, Benny Lennartsson, Lars Lagerback and Tommy Solderberg — kept tabs on Sweden's opponents.

Goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli had a marvellous World Cup. His reflexes, personality and unflappable spirit, plus his crucial save in the penalty shoot-out with Romania, silenced those who had doubted his freshness at 35.

Big Kennet Andersson was the joker in the pack, playing his heart out and showing that there is still room for a bustling, British-type centre-forward. He has now left Lille for another mid-table French club, Caen, and says: "People tell me that I made a mistake, but I wanted to concentrate on the World Cup and not let anything affect me. That was the right thing to do."

Indeed it was, as his five goals made him the highest-scoring Swede ever in the World Cup finals.

*PENTTI HIETANEN*

Still going strong . . . Ravelli, now 35.

FRANCE

# A Cup to end the scandals?

**THE new, going theory is that French football will be "purified" by putting on the World Cup of 1998. Quite how this is going to happen, what is the direct connection, remains for the moment obscure.**

We know that Marseille fixed a match against Valenciennes, we know all about the nasty little creatures which subsequently crawled out of the woodwork, we know about Bernard Tapie's endless battles with the Establishment. Will the arrival of the World Cup put an end to such scandals?

What it does give France is an opportunity to show it can do a much better job than America; which shouldn't be too hard. The climate, for one thing, won't be remotely as unhelpful to soccer. Any more than it was when France successfully put on the European Championship Finals of 1984.

Nor will the distances be so crucifyingly great. It doesn't take long to get across *la belle France* by train, let alone by planes. And our stadiums — there will of course be at least one major new one — are far more suited to soccer than those in America.

There will be no need to cramp the pitch, as was done at Giants Stadium in New Jersey and at the stifling Silverdome in Pontiac. And there will be no repeat of those stadia open to sun, rain and winds.

But moral regeneration? That's another matter. That's for our domestic game to see to. It's for us to put our house in order.

Meanwhile, a tale of several strikers.

Marseille failed to hold on to the brilliant Brazilian Anderson "Sonny" Da Silva, who arrived last season so unexpectedly from Switzerland, and already has left in a blaze of goals. Somewhat unlucky, perhaps, not to be chosen for the Brazilian World Cup party.

But surely not as unlucky as Valdo, that fine midfielder, so lively and inventive with Paris St Germain. Why did his clubmate and compatriot, Rai, get the nod, while Valdo was passed over by Brazil?

The fact that Rai did not even get on the field in the World Cup Final surely speaks for itself. A Brazilian team so notably sterile and uncreative in midfield could surely have done with Valdo.

Nobody would pretend that Tony Cascarino as a striker, and a veteran one at that, is in the same category as Rudi Voller — who was so impressive in the World Cup after his unexpected recall — or Da Silva, or Jean-Pierre Papin. But in his own way, we know he can be effective.

**On the move . . . Anderson Da Silva (top), Tony Cascarino (above) and Kennet Andersson (right).**

Marseille, now in Division Two — but not for long, I suspect — will have to play to his head, rather than his feet. But those around him should be able to snap up a chance or two.

After playing last season for Lille, the towering Kennet Andersson has turned down your Crystal Palace, to sign for our Caen. As Graeme Rix and Brian Stein did. Quite a snub to Palace because, as their manager, Alan Smith, remarked, Caen are just a little club, though every now and then they do turn out a star.

According to Smith, Palace even offered Andersson more money than he will earn at Caen, which is a different kettle of fish from what usually moves a foreigner to turn down an English club. But Andersson preferred the French lifestyle, the lack of pressure by comparison with England and its heavy load of matches, the less physical nature of French football.

So much for ambition, but it's good still to have him in France.

You do at least have Eric Cantona, that stormy petrel, even if he will not be able to play in Manchester United's first four matches in the Champions Cup. Not wholly a bad thing, perhaps, when one of them is likely to be in Istanbul against Galatasaray, where last season Eric insulted the referee, was sent off, and was cut by a policeman's shield.

He was in trouble in America too, during the World Cup, handcuffed but technically not arrested. English journalists may spare him some sympathy because they too were often molested by a cruelly aggressive so-called "security" force, which seemed to have been pulled in off the streets at the last moment, with no proper training.

We know that Cantona can be somewhat easily provoked, at times. He's not the one to turn the other cheek to crass and offensive behaviour.

The relative success of Bulgaria in the States perhaps does something to alleviate French disappointment over the absurd way our team were bumped out of the World Cup by those two incredibly late goals.

On the other hand, it makes us wonder just how far France might have gone in a World Cup which had no really outstanding teams and so few outstanding players.

Marcio Santos of Bordeaux, however, was a coolly effective centre-back for Brazil. His reward is a lucrative move across the border to Fiorentina, with Spurs unable to match the offer.

There are still plenty of foreign stars in French football, even if so many of them took off at the end of last season.

*ANDRE DUCLOS*

## LIECHTENSTEIN

**VILLAGE club FC Schaan won the National Cup in Liechtenstein by beating the favourites, Balzers, 3-0.**

Mikolic, Peischl and Kindle scored the goals.

Schaan only just avoided relegation from the 2 Liga, which is the Fourth Division of the Swiss pyramid system. Balzers missed promotion by only three points.

FC Vaduz, the only club from Liechtenstein playing in the 1 Liga, finished in a comfortable position and are now hoping for promotion with the help of seven members of the national side.

The other three clubs in the country, Ruggell, Triesen and Triesenborg, all play in the East Swiss region of the 3 Liga.

Triesenborg's ground is on the side of a mountain, with spectator accommodation limited to one side. Huge nets cover the other three sides to prevent the ball from being lost and becoming a hazard to skiiers and climbers.

## LUXEMBOURG

**AVENIR BEGGEN completed a League-and-Cup double in Luxembourg for the third successive season, and will play in the European Cup this autumn.**

**Dudelange, beaten Cup finalists for the second time in successive years, go into the Cup-winners Cup, and Grevenmacher took the UEFA Cup place after overhauling Union with a late winner on the season's final day.**

**Veteran striker Armin Krings scored a hat-trick in Beggen's 6-1 Cup semi-final win over Jeunesse d'Esch, and added another goal in the 3-1 defeat of Dudelange.**

*TIM BRICE*

**LUXEMBOURG** — *Final table*

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avenir Beggen | 28 | 19 | 4 | 5 | 76 | 33 | 28.5 |
| Grevenmacher | 28 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 46 | 28 | 24 |
| US Luxembourg | 28 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 40 | 34 | 23 |
| Jeunesse d'Esch | 28 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 33 | 25 | 18 |
| Dudelange | 28 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 48 | 50 | 16.5 |
| Aris Bonnevoie | 28 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 31 | 42 | 16.5 |

***LUXEMBOURG CUP — FINAL***
**AVENIR BEGGEN 3** (Krings, Krahen, Scholt), **DUDELANGE 1** (Petitfrere)

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

# Dunphy, a lone voice

**BIG JACK seems sure to stay, despite the rows over water, the FIFA fine and match ban and the confusion regarding the homecoming party.**

Republic of Ireland manager Charlton *(right)* aims to take the team to the 1996 European Championship Finals in his native England.

He will spend a few weeks fishing and talking to friends before making up his mind, but resignation seems unthinkable.

This is the first time in his eight years in charge that he has publicly mentioned resigning, and he says: "Maybe I'm getting a little bit weary over the whole business, maybe my thoughts are not as clear as they should be, maybe I'm not as sharp as I was.

"That's why I need to have a little bit of time to think about the future."

Under Charlton the Irish have got to the finals of three major tournaments, but now some fans are demanding more than just qualification.

One voice screaming for Charlton to go is that of former international Eamon Dunphy, now a journalist with *The Sunday Independent* in Dublin.

Dunphy, a long-time critic of Charlton, claims that he is a bully and that his negative tactics are restricting the Irish team.

"Gifted with a magnificent squad of players, one of the most formidable in Europe, as the record of the qualifiers and pre-tournament friendly internationals proves beyond dispute, Charlton squandered it all in America." says Dunphy.

Charlton admits that changes will have to be made, in personnel and style of play. "Whether I'm capable of producing that change is something I've got to think about. Can I wring another six months or a year out of some of the players. These are all problems that are facing us in the next

European Championship."

Three gems of the World Cup, Gary Kelly, Jason McAteer and Phil Babb, are now adored by the teenyboppers.

But the Irish badly need a striker. The good news is that Manchester City's Niall Quinn should be fit to resume.

Packie Bonner probably would like to forget the game against Holland in Orlando, when he set a record of 77 caps but made that terrible mistake. It's a record that may some day be broken, but it's unlikely any player will again win 77 caps with one club, as Bonner has done with Celtic.

Steve Staunton is the player most likely to pass that figure. He needed only 68 months to reach the 50-cap mark and he is still only 25.

*SEAN CREEDON*

## TURKEY

# Tanju on the run

**TANJU COLAK, one of Turkish football's biggest names in recent years, has fled the country because of a jail sentence.**

**In April last year Tanju *(right)* was given a nine-year sentence for customs irregularities, but freed on appeal. Now, however, the appeal court has ruled that he must serve 22 months, and pay a fine of $23,000.**

**Tanju went to Macedonia and appealed to the Turkish president, Seleyman Demirel, asking for a pardon. The president refused, so Tanju's career seems to be over.**

**Tanju had been convicted of smuggling a Mercedes car into Turkey, contravening customs rules. At the time he was with Fenerbahce, having been sold by Galatasaray for a then record fee of £1 million. Last season he signed for Second Division club Istanbulspor.**

**Reinhard Saftig, new coach of Galatasaray, is facing perhaps the biggest task as the new season gets going. He has to follow a man who won the title in his first and only season.**

**Rainer Hollmann helped Gala to a second successive title after succeeding Kalli Feldkamp, but left because of a dispute. Now Saftig is in charge, aiming to take the club to a third successive title, each under a different boss, and to further success in the Champions Cup.**

**Gala reached the last eight in 1993-94, knocking out Manchester United on the way. Saftig will need to do at least as well if he is to justify his annual salary of £300,000, plus bonuses and a house.**

**He will have to do the job without Swede Roger Ljung, who is going to join MSV Duisburg in Germany. Saffet, who scored 20 goals for Kocaelispor last season, has been bought, along with clubmate Kuzmanowski, Genclerbirligi midfielder Ergun and defender Balkan of Bursaspor.**

**Fenerbahce have signed Danish striker Pingel and midfielder Nail from Bursaspor, plus Altay defender Toprak. Manager Holger Osiek — on a £400,000 contract for just one season — is looking for Nigerian Uche to show international form at the back and for Aykut, now fully fit again after injury, to shine alongside Pingel.**

*HASAN CEMALI*

## GREECE

# Yekini rings the bell

**RASHIDI YEKINI *(right)* is doing his best to lift some of the World Cup gloom hanging over Greece, a country he opposed during the tournament.**

His move from Vitoria Setubal to Olympiakos of Piraeus has had the cash registers ringing, with thousands of season tickets sold in advance of the season's start,

Nigerian striker Yekini was top scorer in Portugal last season, with 21 goals, and has around 40 in full internationals and other representative games.

He returned to Nigeria after the World Cup, to be married, and will be 31 in October, but was still the object of interest from several other clubs. Olympiakos did well to get him to join them, and are hoping that he will help them to finish even higher than last season's third place. The game in general can do with a lift after the huge disappointments of US '94.

The success of the qualifying campaign was forgotten as the team crashed to three defeats, without a goal, and virtually all parties involved blaming each other for the debacle.

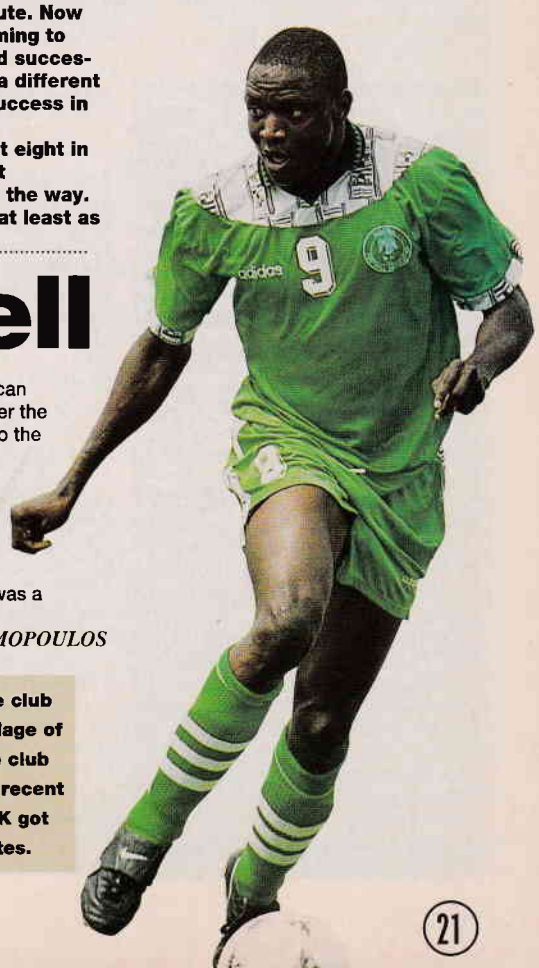
In addition to the poor form shown on the pitch, there were all sorts of allegations about misuse of public and private funds. The Greek Football Federation (EPO) have been accused of losing huge sums through failing to sell more than 5,000 tickets, and the relationship between private companies and EPO is to be the subject of a judicial inquiry.

The national team's coach, Alketas ("The final will be between Greece and Brazil") Panagoulias, has threatened lawsuits against various media outlets, and asks: "How can people react this way after the success I have brought to the Greek team?"

One player, Kyriakos Karataidis, summed up the whole affair by saying: "There is nothing for us to remember about the World Cup. It was a nightmare."

*LOU ECONOMOPOULOS*

**● Supporters of Crete club PAOK living in the village of Krousonas put up the club as a "candidate" in a recent election . . . and PAOK got 70 per cent of the votes.**



Winners . . . Floriana's Wright, Garcia and Miller with the Maltese FA Trophy

**MALTA FA TROPHY — FINAL**
**FLORIANA 2** (Busuttil 17, Agius og 87)
**VALLETTA 1** (Agius 42)

## MALTA

# Agony for Agius

**AN OWN GOAL by Valletta's Gilbert Agius after 87 minutes decided the 55th national FA Trophy Final in favour of Floriana.**

Before the best crowd of the season, Floriana took the lead through Albert Busuttil after 17 minutes. Agius equalised with a spectacular goal three minutes before the break, but later deflected a shot into his own net.

Floriana go into the history books by winning the trophy for a record-breaking 18th time. Valletta must feel sorry for themselves. Nothing seemed to go right for them.

Champions Hibernians went out of the same competition in the quarter-finals, 6-5 to Valletta on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Valletta then went on to defeat Sliema Wanderers 1-0 in a replayed semi-final, while Floriana beat both Birkirkara and Rabat Ajax 3-1. Hibernians soon made amends for their trophy exit by winning the national Super Cup, defeating Floriana 7-6 on penalties after another pulsating 2-2 draw.

Former national coach Guentcho Dobrev is now technical director of the club, but the new champions, who immediately confirmed Brian Talbot as coach for next term, will be handicapped by the curb on the number of foreign players per club, from three back to two. This means that Hibs probably will have to part with one of their formidable trio of Docherty, Lawrence and Zacchau.

As from next term Birkirkara will be amalgamating with Luxol St Andrews to form one team — Birkirkara Luxol This created a void in the 10-team format of the Premier League which will be filled by St George's, who were third in Division One. Naxxar Lions and Pieta Hotspurs already were promoted.

The Malta FA council also voted in favour of getting in line with other European leagues by bringing in the three-point system, and substitutes for goalkeepers. Finally, no more guest players will be allowed to take part in the FA Trophy.

Pietro Ghedin's national team ended commitments for the season with a 2-0 defeat in Riga against Latvia.

Under Ghedin the team have managed three wins, against Gabon, Belgium and Azerbaijan, and a draw, with six defeats scoring 10 goals while conceding 13.

Premier League clubs have been busy trying to strengthen their ranks.

Hamrun Spartans surprisingly captured Jeffrey Chetcuti from rivals Valleta, when he seemed likely to sign a new contract with his old club, and Naxxar Lions, back in the top flight, managed to lure Irish striker Brian Crawley (previously with Floriana) back to Maltese football.

Team coaches also have been on the move. Valletta will be guided by Joe Cilia, a Valletta player in his younger days, George Busuttil takes over from Mark Miller at Floriana, and Sliema went for Englishman Andy Weavill. Zurrieq bring back Lawrence Borg, Naxxar will be managed by Dennis Fenech, Pieta Hotspurs by Bulgarian Georgi Deanov and St George's by Robert Kelly.

*DOMENICO AQUILINA*

## BULGARIA

# Busy time for Penev

**WHEN the dust has settled on the World Cup and holidays have been spent in contemplating what might have been, League and European Cup matters will be upon the heroes of the defeat of Germany.**

Perhaps, fortunately, the first Euro '96 tie is not until October so the Bulgarian

## CYPRUS

**APOLLON'S championship success has been marred by allegations of attempted bribery, and three people have been charged.**

**They include Apollon's Pambos Pittas, a regular choice for the national team and a former president of the Football Players Association.**

**If guilty verdicts are brought in, then the outcome of the championship may be altered. Apollon insist that the story is a fabrication and that the allegations are without truth.**

**The title was a fitting way for them to celebrate their 40th year of existence, but the sceptics still wait to see if that championship will be confirmed.**

**Anorthosis lost only two games all season but finished second in both competitions. They were two points behind Apollon, the only club to beat them in the League, then were beaten 1-0 by Omonia in the Cup Final.**

**The format for 1994-94 has been changed to a 33-match programme between 12 clubs.**

*LAKIS AVRAMIDES*

## SLOVAKIA

**THE second season of Slovak First League football began on August 6, a month and a day before France go to Bratislava for the nation's first competitive international.**

Goalkeeper Vencel, now of Strasbourg, will be able to tell his coach, Jo Venglos, all about current form but Molnar of Inter Bratislava may get the nod for the No. 1 shirt.

Venglos managed to persuade the French to play their first Euro '96 game away and hopes to get off to a flier so there are also good gates for the Polish and Romanian ties.

At least one is likely to be scheduled for the All Sport Stadium in Kosice but with the success of the World Cup side in the US there may be rethinking in the SFZ offices.

In club football the waltz of the coaches has been playing again.

Vencel Senior has left Slovan to join Valovic, last season's assistant to Galis at Slovan, on the bench at DAC, to be his deputy and coach the keepers. One of them is club president Santa's son, not always a popular choice for the No. 1 spot with fans! Trnava also have a new man at the helm, the highly respected former Under-21 manager, Karol Pecze, a Czechoslovak Cup-winner with DAC, who also did well at the Tehelne pole in the past.

Persuasive . . . Jozef Venglos.

Spartak hope Pecze, also in demand abroad, will be able to bring back the glory days to the "Red-white-blacks" who only just escaped relegation.

Some new brooms on the committee have managed to obtain Pecze's services for two years initially but hope for a longer stay and a European Cup placing come June.

*BOB VAUGHAN*

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**AN EARLY August "liga" start gave national trainer Dusan Uhrin little chance to assess form before the visit to Bordeaux for a final "shake down" game ahead of the opening European Championship qualification tie with Malta in Prague.**

Lessons needed to be drawn, certainly defensively, from the end-of-season encounter in Dublin, but Kadlec *(right)* should be available again to lock the back door.

Goalkeeper Jan Stejskal, back in Prague, but now with Slavia after his spell with QPR, could return to the reckoning to challenge Kouba of his old club, Sparta, who kept goal most of last season.

Uhrin will need the goal scoring power of a settled Skuhravy, whether he be still at FC Genoa or elsewhere.

The Championship has only one favourite, Sparta, though perhaps Slavia and possibly Ostrava can mount a challenge. Demoted Dukla

Football Union have more time than some to sort things out on the national team front.

Qualification for US '94 and Dimitar Penev's success there have kept the bank manager happy and saved the BFU from an embarrassing fate, but now they must build on the success and put the domestic football house in order.

Georgia go to Sofia in a month's time, Moldova are the second autumnal visitors for European Championship points and then comes a trip to Cardiff, so Penev *(above)* will be busy.

At least he should have the money to finance a few spying trips and occasionally be able to travel to see his charges performing abroad for their clubs. Germany — who else? — are the favourites in Group 7 where Bulgaria look likely to vie with Wales and Georgia for the second ticket to England.

Before all this the Championship will have begun and FC Pirin will have been to Liechtenstein after an opening home game with FC Schaan in the Cup-winners Cup. Levski and CSKA start with more difficult ties in Slovenia and Erevan.

Unfortunately, Olimpia and Ararat are not very attractive opposition so getting through to the competition proper is economically vital.

meanwhile face an uncertain future and possibly one outside professional football. The army men may have been unpopular in their time, but their 45 year history as the dominating Czech club with New York Trophy, European Cup semi-final and umpteen Czechoslovak successes cannot be removed from the record books in one fell swoop, though that is what some would like.

While the fate of the club was being decided, reborn Viktoria Zizkov were trying to get past IFK Norrkoping in the Cup-winners Cup preliminaries on their European debut. Sparta also drew Swedish opposition and a home start but a short straw if able to dispose of former UEFA Cup-winners IFK Gothenburg. Success would mean Champions League Group A ties with Barcelona and Manchester United!

Unlike the two Slovak sides visiting Northern Ireland, Slavia kick off their European campaign with the Republic's Cork City as guests.

*BOB VAUGHAN*

**ROMANIA**

# Hagi goes back to Spain

**THE one time "Maradona of the Carpathians", has capitalised on his World Cup success to follow in the footsteps of the real Maradona and carry on his career in Spain with Barcelona.**

**Despite early summer confessions of loyalty to Brescia, Hagi *(below)* signed for two years back in Spain where he previously assisted Real Madrid, though not with great success.**

**Meanwhile his colleagues in the US were briefly on holiday at home before returning to their clubs, mostly abroad. Anghel Iordanescu looks likely to stay on and certainly he will be in charge and trying to retain the "American momentum" for the European Championship.**

**This will not be simple with the stars spread across Europe and involved in League and European Cup matches before the home tie with Azerbaijan in Bucharest on September 7th.**

**At least perhaps, with no disrespect, one of the less attractive Euro '96 opponents will be seen by a capacity crowd still on the wave of World Cup hysteria which brought thousands on to the streets in Bucharest and it is difficult to envisage anything but three points for Hagi & Co.**

**An upswing in club football also is to be hoped for. Steaua's route to the Champions League was via Switzerland, not just for the draw, but also a tricky tie with a revived Servette. Cup-winners Bistrita await their opponents while both "U" Craoiva and Rapid begin away, in Georgia with Dinamo Tblisi and Malta with Valletta respectively. Of all four clubs, Rapid look to have the best chance of progressing.**

## LATVIA

# Keeper saves six penalties

**VIDUS goalkeeper Leonid Dvorkin saved six penalties out of eight in a shoot-out in the Latvian Cup.**

The quarter-final against another Riga club, Skonto, was drawn 0-0 after extra time, but Vidus eventually won 3-2.

They then lost in the semi-final, 1-0 to FC DAG, who in turn lost in the final, 2-0 against Olimpia.

This was a violent match, with two DAG players and one of their opponents sent off. Alexeyenko put Olimpia ahead in the 64th minute, and 12 minutes later Audrey Shtolcers made it 2-0, immediately after Olimpia's Erik Grigyan had saved a penalty.

Latvia's national team beat Malta 2-0 in Riga, but then lost 3-1 at home to Georgia after being level 1-1 with half an hour to go.

Skonto Riga began the new season by winning 10 and drawing one of their first 11 games, scoring 25 goals and conceding two. This gave them a five-point lead over RAF.

*VALERY KARPOUSHKIN*

Silverware . . . Olimpia's Semyonov with the Cup.

| LATVIA | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skonto Riga | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 2 | 21 |
| RAF Jelgava | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 16 |
| FC DAG Riga | 11 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 14 |
| Vidus Riga | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| Vairogs Rezekne | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 13 |
| Olimpia Riga | 11 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 12 |
| Auseklis Daugavpils | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| Pardaugava Riga | 11 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Interskonto Riga | 11 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 8 |
| Gemma Riga | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 7 |
| FK Liepaya | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 5 |
| Khimiks Daugavpils | 11 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 23 | 3 |

## ARMENIA

# Ararat clinch double

**ARARAT did the League-Cup double in Armenia, topping the table without losing a match and taking the knock-out trophy by the only goal.**

**Shirak were runners-up in both competitions.**

**A string of 23 wins and five draws, with a goal return of 92-9, made Ararat worthy champions, but Shirak ran them close, finishing only two points behind.**

**Two players scored 26 goals — Housepian for Banants, who were third, and Houhanisian for Homentmen, who finished in fourth place.**

*KOTA STEPANIAN*

| ARMENIA — *Final table* | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ararat | 28 | 23 | 5 | 0 | 92 | 9 | 51 |
| Shirak | 28 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 95 | 20 | 49 |
| Banants | 28 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 108 | 21 | 48 |
| Homentmen | 28 | 21 | 3 | 4 | 80 | 26 | 45 |
| Van | 28 | 15 | 2 | 11 | 71 | 46 | 32 |
| Cement | 28 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 50 | 50 | 30 |
| Homenmen-FIMA | 28 | 12 | 1 | 14 | 54 | 43 | 28 |
| Erazank | 28 | 11 | 3 | 14 | 141 | 49 | 25 |
| Nairit | 28 | 8 | 4 | 16 | 29 | 61 | 20 |
| Kanaz | 28 | 8 | 4 | 16 | 37 | 75 | 20 |
| Kotajk | 28 | 9 | 1 | 18 | 54 | 73 | 19 |
| Impuls | 28 | 8 | 1 | 18 | 42 | 86 | 19 |
| Zvartnots | 28 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 42 | 78 | 16 |
| Kasach | 28 | 5 | 1 | 21 | 15 | 116 | 12 |
| Malatia-Kilikia | 28 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 22 | 89 | 8 |

## UKRAINE

# Kiev Dynamo keep on top

**KIEV DYNAMO won the championship for the second successive year, and go into the Champions Cup next season.**

They took 56 points from 34 games, with 61 goals scored and only 21 conceded. Their record of 11 wins in 17 away matches was truly remarkable.

Dynamo remain the most popular team in the country and drew a total of 283,900 fans to their home and away games, an average of 8,350 per match.

They owed much of their success to wily coach Jozef Sabo, who replaced Mikhail Fomenko for the second half of the season. Under him, Dynamo played 17, won 11, drew five.

Sabo, now 54, played for Zaria and Moscow Dynamo before joining Kiev Dynamo, where he won the USSR title four times and the Cup twice.

Other highlights of his career included a match on September 20, 1967, in Glasgow, in the first round of the Champions Cup, when Dynamo defeated Celtic, then the holders, 2-1.

Kiev's key players include captain Luzny in defence, Leonenko — the top striker with 15 goals — and Shkapenko.

A 5-2 home win over Metalurg in the last match gave Shakhtyor second place and a spot in the UEFA Cup.

Chernomorets of Odessa have added yet another Ukraine Cup to their collection. They will represent Ukraine in the Cup-winners' Cup after beating Tavria Simferopol 5-3 on penalties in the final, after a 0-0 draw. Their goalkeeper, Suslov, scored the decisive goal.

Bukovina and Metalist were relegated and replaced by Prikarpattiye and Evis Nikolaev.

*OLEG ZADERNOVSKY*

| UKRAINE — *Final table* | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kiev Dynamo | 34 | 23 | 10 | 1 | 61 | 21 | 56 |
| Shakhtyor | 34 | 20 | 9 | 5 | 64 | 32 | 49 |
| Chernomorets | 34 | 20 | 8 | 6 | 52 | 23 | 48 |
| Dnipr | 34 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 53 | 35 | 41 |
| Karpaty Lvov | 34 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 37 | 30 | 40 |
| Krivbas | 34 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 26 | 26 | 36 |
| Niva Ternopil | 34 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 44 | 26 | 36 |
| Tavria | 34 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 41 | 34 | 34 |
| Temp | 34 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 39 | 38 | 32 |
| Niva V | 34 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 37 | 45 | 32 |
| Volyn | 34 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 27 | 28 | 32 |
| Veres | 34 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 32 | 36 | 32 |
| Torpedo | 34 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 27 | 39 | 28 |
| Zaria-Mals | 34 | 10 | 6 | 18 | 24 | 46 | 26 |
| Kremen | 34 | 9 | 9 | 17 | 26 | 39 | 26 |
| Metalurg | 34 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 26 | 49 | 24 |
| Bukovina | 34 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 25 | 51 | 20 |
| Metalist | 34 | 6 | 8 | 20 | 22 | 63 | 20 |

## SLOVENIA

# Branko banks on a surprise

**FOOTBALL in the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia, now an independent country, has never been very popular. The main sports are those taking place on ice and snow, followed by basketball, volleyball and swimming.**

Football usually was represented by Olimpia from Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital, and Maribor, but the players for the most part came from Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro.

Now, however, entry to the 1996 European Championship qualifying tournament is adding to the interest in soccer.

Slovenia became a FIFA member in June 1992 and since then the national team have played 11 games — won five, drawn four and lost two.

The Slovenian League now comprises 16 clubs but in the 1995-96 season the number will be reduced to ten. Distances between cities are small, and opinion in general is that a smaller league would mean better quality.

Branko Oblak, formerly a player with Olimpia, Hajduk Split and Germany's Schalke 04, is the national coach, and the European Championship rivals are Italy, Ukraine, Croatia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Oblak thinks that a surprise cannot be excluded, and says: "Italy will surely be the first in our group, but Ukraine and Croatia are better than us only on paper.

"Our team is experienced and we have players who successfully play in Europe."

Players in the national team include Milanic (Sturm Graz), Katanec (Sampdoria), Florjancic (Cremonese), Udovic (Beveren), Pate (Pierikos), Zahovic (Guimaraes), and Novak (Ol. Ljubljana).

Slovenia start their campaign on September 7, against Italy in Maribor.

*BOZIDAR KOCOVIC*

Experienced . . . Novak of Olimpia Ljubljana.

## ALBANIA

**TEUTA DURRESI narrowly failed in their attempt to add the Albanian Cup to their League success, losing 1-0 to FK Tirana in the final after a 0-0 draw.**

Saimir Malko scored in the 53rd minute to give his club the trophy for the seventh time.

In the semi-finals, Tirana beat Partizani 1-0, with an early penalty by Indrid Fortuzi, and Teuta defeated Dinamo 2-0 in extra time, after the first match had ended goalless.

Elton Koca scored twice in two minutes during the first half of the extra period.

The poll for team of the season brought the following line-up:

Kapllani (Teuta), Dema (Flamurtari), Gallo (Tirana), Shulku (Partizani), Malko (Tirana), Qendro (Teuta), Dashi (Teuta), Dalipi (Dinamo), Martini (Vllaznia), Zalla (Teuta), Fortuzi (Tirana).

*GEZIM NUSHI*

## POLAND

# Legia take two titles

**AT LAST Legia have done it! Fans had waited for the title for 24 years, and now the club have won it again — and the Cup as well.**

Legia and second-placed Gornik Zabrze met on the final day, with Gornik needing to win to take the title, Legia needing only a draw. In a brutal game referee Slawomir Redzinski sent off three Gornik players and booked several. Legia could not manage a winning goal, but a 1-1 draw was enough.

Three days later Legia defeated LKS Lodz 2-0 in the Cup Final — a "normal" match with only two yellow cards. Legia's players share $500,000 for the double and are dreaming of the Champions League.

LKS will appear in the Cup-winners Cup, GKS Katowice, who moved up to second on the last day, and Gornik Zabrze go into the UEFA Cup. Wisla Krakow, Polonia Warsaw, Siarka Tarnobrzeg and Zawisza Bydgoszcz are relegated. Olimpia Poznan came back to the First Division after one year. Rakow Czestochowa, Petrochemia Plock and Stomil Olsztyn all go up for the first time.

*DARIUSZ KUROWSKI*

| POLAND — *Final table* | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legia Warsaw* | 34 | 19 | 13 | 2 | 72 | 24 | 48 |
| GKS Katowice | 34 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 52 | 28 | 47 |
| Gornik Zabrze | 34 | 17 | 12 | 5 | 56 | 32 | 46 |
| LKS Lodz* | 34 | 17 | 11 | 6 | 49 | 24 | 42 |
| Pogon Szczecin | 34 | 11 | 19 | 4 | 39 | 24 | 41 |
| Widzew Lodz | 34 | 11 | 16 | 7 | 43 | 34 | 38 |
| Hutnik Krakow | 34 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 34 | 28 | 38 |
| Ruch Chorzow | 34 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 48 | 41 | 37 |
| Lech Poznan | 34 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 39 | 32 | 35 |
| TN Pniewy | 34 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 41 | 40 | 33 |
| Stal Mielec | 34 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 32 | 45 | 31 |
| Stal Stalowa Wola | 34 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 25 | 37 | 30 |
| Zaglebie Lubin | 34 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 40 | 47 | 30 |
| Warta Poznan | 34 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 32 | 45 | 30 |
| Wisla Krakow* | 34 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 30 | 46 | 22 |
| Polonia Warsaw | 34 | 4 | 11 | 19 | 26 | 61 | 19 |
| Siarka Tarnobrzeg | 34 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 57 | 19 |
| Zawisza Bydgoszcz | 34 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 30 | 70 | 17 |

* = 3 pts deducted

HUNGARY

FOOTBALL IN HUNGARY HAS BEEN IN DECLINE FOR YEARS. MEMORIES OF THE PUSKAS ERA ARE FADING FURTHER AND FURTHER AS THE SEASONS GO BY. **BRIAN O'SULLIVAN** LOOKS FOR SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS AMID THE GLOOM

# Two left feet

**ENTERPRISING former international Gyorgy Bognar organised a World Cup club at his Ketballasbas (Two Left Feet) beer cellar-restaurant, enabling the public to mix with a top player and coach each evening of matches during the event.**

Television provided blanket coverage, the national sports newspaper had four correspondents reporting daily, and such was the interest in the event that one of the country's many unemployed coaches, Barnabas Tornyl, was hired by *Danubius Radio* to provide live reports.

Yes, Hungarians love football — but they don't like Hungarian football!

Another mediocre championship was alleviated by the deserved success of Vac FC-Samsung, runners up in the previous two seasons and only the third country team after Nagyvarad (1944) and ETO Gyor (1963, 1981-82, 1982-83) to deprive a Budapest outfit of the title. This triumph for Janos Csank, the Vac manager, and his players was obscured by eruptions elsewhere.

Hungary suffered their worst defeat for 51 years in losing 7-1 to Holland in Eindhoven. After the 3-1 defeat by Belgium in Brussels the manager, Jozsef Verebes, whose contract was about to expire, and Dr Mihaly Laczko, the FA president, resigned.

MTK, champions 19 times, most recently in 1986-87 under Verebes, were relegated. Sandor Popovic's short return home from Holland to manage them ended bitterly, and Bertalan Bicskei came from abroad to take on the obligatory one-year contract.

Ferencvaros lost their manager, Tibor Nyilasi, who complained of being tired, before his team, whose new chief is old-hand Dezso Novak, clinched the Cup with a 5-1 aggregate win (3-0 at home, 2-1 away) over Kispest-Honved.

The football in the second leg, in which Kispest penned the favourites in their own half for the first 45 minutes only to concede a breakaway goal right on half-time, was forgotten as a result of later crowd scenes.

Referee Lajos Hartmann's solution to his own mishandling of the game was to send three players off. Petty fouls and feuds laced the brilliantly sunny afternoon.

Poor Istvan Pisont, playing his heart out, was the butt of racist, gypsy jibes by the allegedly neo-Nazi faction of Fradi "fans."

**Hungarian trio . . . departing manager Nyilasi of Ferencvaros, and crowd-target Pisont and top-scorer Iles of Honved.**

Twice the ball went into the Ferencvaros section of the crowd, never to be returned.

The pre-match strategy to counter this unruly element was that the police would prevent them from entering the pitch until after the presentation. In the event, police and fans were involved in brawls.

There was the pitiful sight of Nyilasi, in his last match as manager, imploring the police to calm down. Next day the Minister of the Interior admitted the police had over-reacted and made mistakes in the matter of crowd control.

Kispest's new Serbian coach, Dimitri Davidovics, said: "If the administrators want to save Hungarian football there must be some agreement among FA, clubs, referees and police. Football has to be protected."

Davidovics is on a short-term contract and knows there is a 40 per cent failure rate each season in the First Division. Kalman Meszoly, the only coach on a long-term contract, has now been appointed to the national job for the third time.

Virtually all managers live in fear of dismissal. This fear not only communicates itself to the players — it also enables some players to exploit the manager's insecurity, undermine his power and be an impediment to lifting standards.

An exception exists at BVSC-Dreher, who not only achieved a landmark of avoiding relegation in a season when another, bigger, Budapest club could not but who, through their football section director, the vastly-experienced Dr Gyorgy Mezey, have in place a junior coaching development school which is classified as grant-status and, therefore, not liable to having a sponsor's contribution taxed.

At the moment, however, Hungarian football in general has two left feet.

## VAC spells TOP

**JANOS CSANK, open and breezy manager of Hungarian champions Vac FC-Samsung, welcomes the tough challenges awaiting his mobile, compact and cool-headed team in this season's European Champions Cup.**

Vac won last season's championship with a match to spare, showing the stamina and nerve in the final rounds that was beyond Bekescsaba who, following seven straight wins, ended the campaign with three defeats.

In addition to Vac, Ferencvaros, who show an increasing emphasis on the physical elements of the game, Kispest and Bekescsaba will be in Europe this season.

Of those clubs not appearing in Europe, Ujpest may be a strong challenger to Vac's title providing they find a goalkeeper and a goalscoring forward.

Csank is well aware of Hungarian casualties upon the outbreak of European hostilities and says: "Our teams have had failures in the first round, and we can't buy a Gullit or a Van Basten like other teams in the Champions Cup. It is a big problem, this big difference in what we can expect."

Reviewing the championship success, Csank regards as highlights the very first match, when Vac beat defending champions Kispect at home. He also recalls the win in Debrecen, the draw at Ferencvaros and the victory over the same club at home. "There were a lot of good matches but even the weaker teams were hard to beat too.

"And from the human aspect, our boys are good fellows. They can talk about what is required, I don't have to force anything. They don't think football is work, they enjoy it and do it well."

**● AN experiment with a kick-in rather than a throw-in is to be used in the Hungarian Second Division this season.**

## The Pied Piper of Kiskoros

**AFTER only two seasons in the Second Division a team from a small town won promotion automatically.**

Kiskoros Stadler were the surprise story of last season, mainly because their sponsor is entrepreneur Jozsef Stadlov, who, as is the way of things in Hungarian football now, has his own name as part of the club.

Stadler's transportation company is the basis of his many-sided operations. He has changed the mood of the town and the personnel in the team so much that resentment has increased among some fans. This was suppressed on the final Sunday of the season when, with a 4-2 home win over mid-table Hajdunanas, Kiskoros Stadler finished two points clear of Hatvan in the East section of the division.

All the football lovers from the surrounding area realise that they will now be able to see the best that Hungarian football can offer. For Kiskoros are the first club from the Bacs-Kiskun county to reach the First Division.

Work started on an all-seat stadium at a nearby village before the season ended, all the costs being financed out of Stadler's pocket, and he said that it would be completed in time for the start of the spring season in March.

With the celebrations in full swing, with townfolk and farmers drinking beer from bottles with the Stadler label, a visit to the stadium revealed the safety fencing around the pitch being complete and a clear outline of how the main stand will look.

Let's hope this is not a little Berlusconi but a Pied Piper who will provide the training grounds for the footballers of tomorrow.

# WORLD CUP USA '94

# POST-MORTEM

**1994 WORLD CUP**

***FIRST ROUND***

**GROUP A**

United States v Switzerland.1-1
Colombia v Romania .....1-3
United States v Colombia..2-1
Romania v Switzerland .....1-4
United States v Romania...0-1
Switzerland v Colombia .....0-2

**GROUP B**

Cameroon v Sweden .....2-2
Brazil v Russia .....2-0
Brazil v Cameroon .....3-0
Sweden v Russia .....3-1
Russia v Cameroon.....6-1
Brazil v Sweden .....1-1

**GROUP C**

Germany v Bolivia.....1-0
Spain v South Korea.....2-2
Germany v Spain .....1-1
South Korea v Bolivia .....0-0
Bolivia v Spain .....1-3
Germany v South Korea ....3-2

**GROUP D**

Argentina v Greece .....4-0
Nigeria v Bulgaria.....3-0
Argentina v Nigeria .....2-1
Bulgaria v Greece .....4-0
Greece v Nigeria .....0-2
Argentina v Bulgaria.....0-2

**GROUP E**

Italy v Rep Ireland.....0-1
Norway v Mexico .....1-0
Italy v Norway .....1-0
Mexico v Rep Ireland.....2-1
Rep Ireland v Norway .....0-0
Italy v Mexico.....1-1

**GROUP F**

Belgium v Morocco.....1-0
Holland v Saudi Arabia .....2-1
Belgium v Holland.....1-0
Saudi Arabia v Morocco ....2-1
Morocco v Holland .....1-2
Belgium v Saudi Arabia.....0-1

***SECOND ROUND***

Germany v Belgium .....3-2
Spain v Switzerland .....3-0
Saudi Arabia v Sweden.....1-3
Romania v Argentina.....3-2
Holland v Rep Ireland .....2-0
Brazil v United States .....1-0
Nigeria v Italy .....1-2
Mexico v Bulgaria .....1-1
*Bulgaria won 3-1 on pens*

***QUARTER-FINALS***

Italy v Spain .....2-1
Holland v Brazil.....2-3
Bulgaria v Germany .....2-1
Romania v Sweden.....2-2
*Sweden won 5-4 on pens*

***SEMI-FINALS***

Bulgaria v Italy .....1-2
Sweden v Brazil .....0-1

***THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF***

Bulgaria v Sweden .....0-4

***FINAL***

Brazil v Italy.....0-0
*Brazil won 3-2 on pens*

**THE World Cup is over for another four years, but there are plenty of points still left for discussion.**

***WORLD SOCCER'S*** **team of experts have been considering the broader picture since USA '94 finished, and over the next 18 pages they give their views.**


***pages 30-31*** ....Francisco Marcos finds out what life is like inside the Brazilian World Cup camp in this *WORLD SOCCER* exclusive.

***pages 32-33*** ....what now for Roberto Baggio? Paddy Agnew tries to find some answers.

***pages 34-35*** ....Bob Vaughan examines the reasons for the impressive performances of Romania and Bulgaria at USA '94.

***pages 36-37*** ....Inside Out USA '94 special — a digest of what was happening around the globe while the players sweated it out in the US.

***pages 38-39*** ....the Young Ones . . . Keir Radnedge focusses on two of the possible stars of France '98 — Brazil's Ronaldo and Argentina's Ariel Ortega.

***pages 40-42*** ....Keir Radnedge's World Cup USA '94 Commentary.

***pages 44-47*** ....World Cup USA '94 Post Mortem: MasterCard award winners, Michel Platini on why France '98 will be a feast for culture vultures, problems for Brazil upon their return to Rio, problems for Russia as Sadyrin quits and Italy's reaction to Arrigo Sacchi and his Italian runners-up.

## Brazilian liaison officer FRANCISCO MARCOS tells PAUL GARDNER about life with the squad

**FRANCISCO MARCOS, 48, is commissioner of the fast-developing American USISL national semi-professional championship. Born in Portugal, he has organised many international tours and worked for 10 years in the North American Soccer League as executive vice-president of operations for Tampa Bay Rowdies and Dallas Tornado. He is founder of the USISL which operates over eight regions with more than 70 clubs.**

**THIS was my seventh World Cup. The others, starting in 1970, I'd attended as a spectator, or with press accreditation. This time, as the liaison officer working with the Brazilian squad, I was, so to speak, on the other side of the fence — a very different experience.**

I have to preface everything with the thing that struck me most: the intensity. Until you're part of it, nothing prepares you for the atmosphere inside the team camp. The level of intensity is like nothing you've seen before.

I recall the first few days in camp — at the Villa Felice in Los Gatos, just outside San Jose. Going through the schedule for the next 55 days, right up to the day of the Final, July 17. There were only four days off, and they were not even full days.

The preparation level was incredible. Very little was left to chance. I would put that down to Carlos Alberto Parreira and the overall supervisor, Americo Faria. Parreira is one of the most thorough professionals I've ever come across in the game, on and off the field.

If you go along with the normal perception that everything to do with Brazil is footloose and fancy free, you're in for a rude awakening. This was to be 55 days of work. Nothing was going to distract them. The schedule was rigid. The bus left for training at 9:30 — if you missed it, you had to make your own way. No player ever missed that bus.

This was not a sight-seeing trip. At a press conference about halfway through the tournament, Ronaldo — at 17, the youngest player in the World Cup — was asked what he'd seen that he liked in America. He replied: "I haven't seen anything of America."

They didn't even need to go out for a hair cut — the Brazilians brought their own hair stylist, who set up a salon in the Villa. They brought their own chef, and an assistant. They tried to bring in their own food — 600lbs of dried pork — but the Department of Agriculture impounded it in San Jose.

The players kept asking me "When are we getting the meat? When can we have a real *feijoada*?" — a Brazilian dish with meat and beans. The meat never arrived — it was destroyed — but the chefs found a local

supply anyway. They had 16 security guards around the clock. One of the normal uses of the Villa is for wedding receptions, and one day they had two girls turn up at the gates in wedding dress. They said they were looking for their reception. Moises, the Brazilian in charge of security, took a risk and pulled up one of the dresses. Underneath, the girl was wearing sneakers and jeans. Just groupies, but they were sent packing.

Some of the wives started to arrive later in the tournament, but they were never allowed in the camp. The players were in the US to win the World Cup. A job, a mission — you sensed and heard that all the time. Brazil hadn't won in 24 years, there was a nation in waiting. These guys were going to do it for the people.

Maybe there was something of a bunker mentality about the Brazilian camp. One of the reasons for that had to do with the media. Parreira had very carefully addressed this. He knew what the team faced: the insatiable, twice-daily feeding frenzy of the Brazilian media. Whether the team was playing, or training, or flying, or maybe out shopping, the journalists tried to be there, all looking for something different. You've got TV and radio stations that are on air three to six hours a day, live, you've got major newspapers with 12 to 16 reporters per paper.

This was a very demanding part of it. But Parreira had the training field, at Santa Clara University, specially designed. The journalists — never fewer than 150 of them at a practice session — were all penned in the same area. And the only way off the field, for the team, and for Parreira, was through that area.

So that, after each training session, the players literally had to run the gauntlet of close-up contact with the media. Parreira would stay there for up to 15 minutes. "When that's done, then it's over," he said, "They can't come to me in the Villa."

Telephoning was not easy either — the Brazilians set up their own switchboard, and all incoming calls were monitored by their own operators.

There seemed to be a general agreement not to discuss Pele and his comments. And Pele never went to the camp.

But if the happy-go-lucky samba-in-the-sand attitude was missing, don't imagine that this was a grim camp. More than anything, this was a unified team. I detected no jockeying for positions, no animosities.

I saw that early on, when Ricardo Gomes was injured and put out of the World Cup. The next day at the media session you sensed a national crisis, everyone seemed to fear a tragedy. But Parreira said: "No problem. We feel badly for him — but we'll go on."

A lesser organisation might have turned it into a calamity, but this team handled the pressure well.

Some reporters thought that Parreira's assistant, Mario Zagalo — with all his World Cup experience — might not want to take a back seat. "If he was interfering he wouldn't be here," said Parreira. "But I'd be stupid not to listen to his suggestions . . ."

Leonardo was among the most likeable, popular guys on the team, a very joyous, caring individual. When he was sent off for elbowing the USA's Tab Ramos, the other players felt he was victimised. Knowing him, they didn't believe it was malicious, and they all felt bad for him. He went to the hospital immediately after the game to see Ramos. It wasn't a contrived PR deal, I'm sure it was heartfelt remorse.

Rai, who was the captain at the start of the World Cup, lost his place and did not play in the Final. But he never gave one word or gesture of annoyance or complaint. I saw a very genuine embrace with Parreira on the field after the Final. You can't fake those emotions.

There were all sorts of rumours that Romario was causing trouble, that he didn't like Bebeto. So, mostly for the American media, I asked Parreira if I could set up a press conference with just the two of them. "Go ahead," was his answer. Romario and Bebeto agreed at once. It was the day before the semi-final against Sweden. More than 60 journalists came, and it lasted over an hour.

It was all very pleasant and you could see that, if they're not exactly brothers, there was genuine affection. "I'm a street cat, Bebeto's a family guy, we're different," said Romario. They bantered around, joking about how Bebeto had dedicated a goal to his new-born baby.

Somebody asked Romario who he would dedicate *his* next goal to. He smiled at Bebeto: "He does the dedications. I'll do the scoring. But if any of you have a pregnant wife due tomorrow, put in a request for a dedication and we'll try to accommodate you."

There were the little groups — like the card players, Jorginho, Taffarel, Zetti and Paulo Sergio. On flights, they'd take over the exit seats where there's more room, and use their big drum for a table. That's the tall drum another group — the musicians — used in the *batucada*, a sort of samba jam session. There was Taffarel with his maracas, plus Mazinho, Paulo Sergio, and Ronaldo, when he started to lose his shyness a little.

Jorginho was the cameraman. He went everywhere with his camcorder, and filmed everything. He was also the leader of the group of Athletes for Christ which included Taffarel, Muller, Mazinho, and Paulo Sergio. They were very unobtrusive, they met daily in the media tent with a pastor, for bible readings.

Romario spent a lot of time on his cellular phone, talking to Brazil. But he went to church frequently, and always on game days, alone. He had his own private driver.

The players watched most of the other games on a large-screen television, reacting just like fans. There was a tremendous eruption of joy when Argentina were eliminated.

And when Bulgaria beat Germany, Jorginho's delight was obvious: "Lothar Matthaus said Brazil wouldn't get past the first round," he told me. "I'm really going to stick it to him now" — though he put it more crudely than that!

There were five players on the team who had been with Italian clubs but couldn't get regular playing time: Taffarel, Aldair, Dunga, Branco, and Mazinho.

"Bring on the Italians," was their attitude, "We'll see who can't play in Italy!"

The attitude was professional right to the end. After the final, there were no wild celebrations — there was even the regular 11:00 curfew that night.

# lights OUT!

## *World champions keep 11pm curfew*

# B

**Why did Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi risk an obviously only half- fit Roberto Baggio against Brazil in this summer's World Cup final?**

The answer to one of the most intriguing questions of an intriguing World Cup was "exclusively" revealed by *MF*, a specialist Italian business daily, just two days after Italy lost out on penalties to Brazil.

Baggio played in the final not because coach Sacchi felt that it was worth taking the risk with a player whose goals had put the side in the final, but rather because the national team's major sponsor, the semi-state company Italiana Petroli or IP, had insisted that Baggio play and thus milk the promotional value of one of the most watched sports spectacles of all time.

Roberto Baggio, after all, was the focal point of a season-long, pre-World Cup advertising campaign run by IP and to have missed out on the supreme bonus of a World Cup final appearance would have been pure commercial folly . . . or so the story goes.

Needless to say, an IP spokesman dismissed the story as retrospective invention, also adding that Roberto Baggio's widely reported $3.2 million fee for the advertising campaign was a gross exaggeration: "We didn't pay him even a tenth of that alleged fee. If you stop to think for just a second, you'll see that this whole story doesn't stand up because, while it is true that Baggio was the focal point for a particular campaign, it is also true that our major focus is directed at the entire Italian national team"

We believe IP and tell the story only for its folkloric value as an indication of the extent to which the already flourishing "Baggio Industry" can only grow further as a result of the little Juventus midfielder's

Joy and heartache . . . an ecstatic Baggio (left), after scoring against Nigeria, and the contrasting pictures of anxiety and dejection in the penalty shoot-out against Brazil (right).

# GGIO . . . WHAT NOW?

(sorry, striker, or should it be midfielder, after all?) five goals in America.

Baggio was big news before he went to America, but he is even bigger now that he has been, seen and, if not conquered, at least performed with honour.

Yet, stepping off the plane in Rome's Fiumicino airport to an understandably enthusiastic reception from more than 1,000 fans last July, Roberto Baggio was the first person to offer a remarkably honest assessment of his World Cup experience: "Against Nigeria, we were just a step away from the abyss. Fortunately, I never gave in and I kept looking for a goal. However, if we'd lost against Nigeria, then I would now be at the Juventus pre-season training camp with the label of 'Failure' firmly stuck on my back"

Baggio's performances, more than those of any other member of the Italian squad, accurately reflected the ups and downs of Italy's USA '94 World Cup campaign.

That, of course, is to state only the logical and the obvious.

Arrigo Sacchi's dull and industrialised Italy has always looked, almost exclusively, to Baggio to provide the sparks and the fireworks.

When the little man fails, then, to some extent, the whole side fails and when the little man takes courage, finds space and scores a brilliant goal, well then the whole side can ride its luck all the way to a World Cup Final.

For many, USA '94 confirmed Roberto Baggio's standing as, if not the best player in the world, certainly one of the best players in contemporary world soccer.

Yet, at the risk of offending Baggio fans, we would beg to suggest that, in some senses, the jury is still out. "The real Baggio", according to the player himself, emerged only after he had removed a huge psychological block by scoring that first goal against Nigeria.

Maybe he is right, but it seems to us that 358 minutes at the world's premier tournament is a long time to wait for the "real Baggio" to emerge.

Until that goal against Nigeria, Baggio had not had a kick in the tournament, proving a miserable failure.

In defence of Baggio, it has to be said that the team's lack of confidence and his nagging injuries cannot have helped. Nonetheless, other players such as the Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian Romario went into the tournament with injury doubts but still had managed to score four and three goals respectively by that stage.

Remember, too, that Stoichkov's Bulgaria, like Italy, had begun their World Cup run with a defeat, beaten 3-0 by Nigeria, and that Bulgaria had never won a World Cup finals match when they arrived in the States.

The doubt still remains.

Fortune's fickle wheel saved Baggio, and Italy, in the nick of time.

For better or for worse, we continue to have doubts about Baggio's ability to sustain the pressures loaded on him by an Italian side in which he is expected to provide all the firepower.

The nature of Baggio's partial World Cup success, however, leaves one intriguing possibility wide open.

Namely, that we have still to see the very best of him, that at 27 years of age he is still a player with a burning desire to prove himself, both as a consistent player and a winner.

**'Having been third at Italia '90 and second in USA '94, it only remains for us to win in France in 1998. I'll be there, I want to be there'**

Remember that, for the time being, Baggio has not won any of the game's supreme honours such as an Italian league championship medal, a European Champions Cup medal, a European Championship medal or indeed a World Cup.

As he said himself on arrival back in Italy: "Having been third at Italia '90 and second in USA '94, it only remains for us to win in France in 1998. I'll be there, I want to be there".

**PADDY AGNEW**

# Wind of change

BOB VAUGHAN looks at the reasons why success went to the Balkans while others declined

**WITH the fall of the Berlin Wall and the final rusting of the Iron Curtain five years ago, politics were in the melting pot and most other things in life were too — football in particular.**

As the leading sport in almost all the Eastern European countries almost all the time — though the Olympic disciplines always enjoyed greater priority — soccer was THE one for reform after the "Wende" (all change) especially in countries where football had been deliberately disadvantaged.

In Poland and East Germany, for example, the State had tried to destroy the bourgeois clubs and their standing, and to direct talented sportsmen and women towards winning Olympic medals and gaining recognition for the New Order.

Communist countries always invested heavily in sport, stressing discipline not individual success, with the benefit to the "Kollektiv" being paramount.

Such rigid concepts translated to football tactics frequently did not bring the desired results, despite such talent being available, and in a country such as Czechoslovakia, with a considerable tradition and a good pre-war World Cup pedigree, stagnation was the result.

Clubs were reorganised or new ones created, such as Tankista or UDA, later Dukla, in Prague. They had the cream of other clubs' talent directed to them while the giants of the capitalist past, Sparta and Slavia, were at best sponsored by heavy industry, at worst losing their top players and suffering relegation with or without the help of "reformation" of the league.

The concentration of the top players in to one or two teams, usually in the capital city, and the army improved national teams, but made the club competitions meaningless.

For a decade or so after 1945, the so-called East Bloc club and national teams hardly put a foot in the West but after the 1954 World Cup Russian and Hungarian sides gradually "risked" a visit to Vienna to play Rapid or FK Austria.

Eventually top English clubs, Arsenal and Wolves, also visited Moscow, not very successfully, and by 1958 Eastern European national teams were almost without exception no longer fearful of entering the World Cup. This was perhaps the first stage in improvement, with Romania, Bulgaria and Poland, plus the East Germans, competing regularly.

Stereotyped thinking, however, was destined to remain for over two decades more. European Cup competition, when it came to the later rounds was way beyond the tempo and pressure most sides from east of the Elbe could bear. Until this year only Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, with an exceptional squad and some good fortune in qualifying group games, could reach a World Cup Final or semi-final.

So it went on until 1990. Take away the Hungarians of Puskas, the Czechoslovaks of Masopust and some Cup-winners Cup and UEFA Cup victories by various clubs and you have little to show for the efforts of socialist soccer apart from the Soviet Union's success in the first European Nations Trophy in 1960, for which several countries did not enter.

The Romanians in 1990, with many of Steaua Bucharest's European champions of 1986, first gave a hint as to what might happen given the lifting of the Curtain and a mixing of thorough preparation and discipline with the release of latent flair, plus the essential ingredient of competition with top western clubs.

A look at the 1994 Romanian squad shows where talented players' skill has been honed.

A wind of change also has meant not just veteran internationals, allowed to leave and play abroad, have been available to national team managers such as Penev, Iordanescu and Jezek.

The reverse, a wind blowing in the opposite direction, is the political side. The Czechs and Slovaks have now gone their own ways, once a nation of some 10 millions, the other of just five millions. From a soccer nation with a proud tradition and World Cup "silvers" from 1934 and 1962, plus a fair European club record, national coaches Uhrin and Venglos inherit weak league football, especially in Slovakia, no big Bratislava-Prague derbies, and a fragile infrastructure.

"No tempo! How can we compete at international level?" remarked former Slovan and Aston Villa manager Venglos as his former club ground out a Cup Final win over Tatran Presov in June.

The wind blown and turned. Eastern and Central European football has to pay its way to exist and cannot now count on state support and handouts.

Romania came to terms with this by prudent sales to the West. Links were maintained for international football with, for example, Italy, where Mircea Lucescu has coached and has had Hagi and others under his wing.

The flagship at home Steaua, have stayed as a top European club while trying to cast off the army and Ceasescu image. Whether this strength can be maintained outside Romania in the coming season's European contests is doubtful.

Bulgaria, too, look likely to see a further selling-off of the July heroes unless league football can be cleaned up and put on a sound financial footing. Qualification through Kostadinov's last-minute goal in Paris filled the coffers, but Levski and CSKA in the UEFA and Pirin Blagoevgrad in the Cup-winners Cup badly need to go past the preliminary round to keep treasurers happy and domestic soccer in business.

This could be a difficult period at club level in the Balkans. Further sales, greater expectation and soon-important Euro '96 qualifiers are on he agenda.

In the former USoviet Union, however, the "reverse swing" may prove most difficult to combat.

An enormous country with almost unlimited resources was always a tough opponent but bad luck, in Mexico, for example, and lack of imagination in forward play meant the *Sbornaja* never made much impact on the

# blows two ways

World Cup.

The change came with a blossoming of the traditional Spartak club but at international level, with the sole exception of the Kiev-based team of 1988, the national side have declined.

Players have moved and discovered their own worth, in hard currency. Selling clubs have been naive but are learning; those responsible for the national team have not.

Unlike the Bulgarians and Romanians, the dinosaurs of the old regime, Vyacheslav Koloskov, the Russia FA president, and unpopular coach Pavel Sadyrin, did not learn, hence the farce in the US.

Several leading players, such as Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis, were not prepared to play under Sadyrin.

He has now gone, the Russian Football Union having accepted his resignation without quite clarifying when it was received.

His replacement is Moscow Spartak's coach, Oleg Romantsev, who will be expected to lead the team out of Group 8 to Euro '96 in England.

Koloskov survives, but for how long? He said that the team's chances had been badly hit before US '94 by the row between players and Sadyrin. The bone of contention, of course, was money. Long negotiations failed to get the "actors" the performance fees they thought due, and while some agreed to play in America, others still refused.

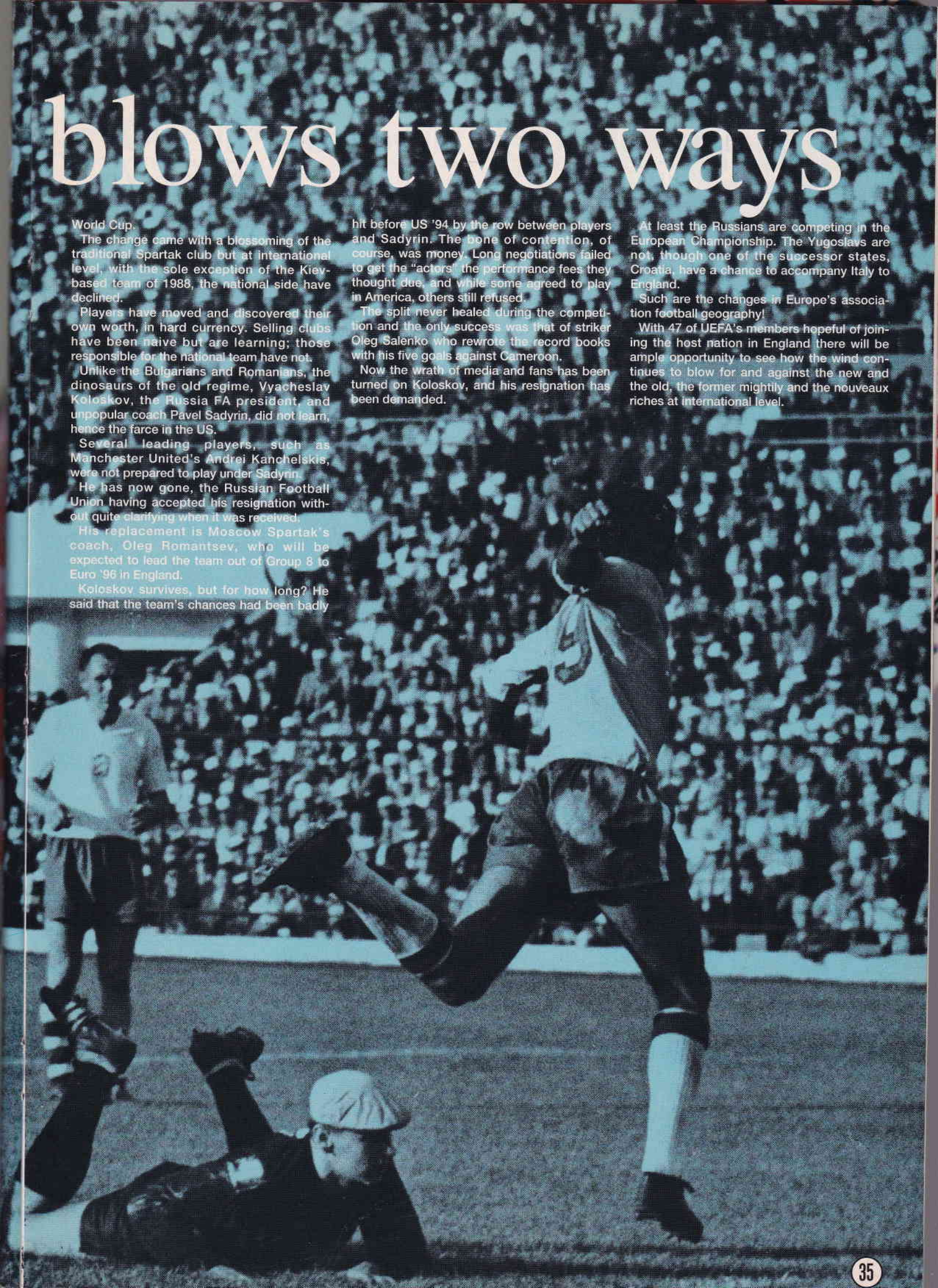
The split never healed during the competition and the only success was that of striker Oleg Salenko who rewrote the record books with his five goals against Cameroon.

Now the wrath of media and fans has been turned on Koloskov, and his resignation has been demanded.

At least the Russians are competing in the European Championship. The Yugoslavs are not, though one of the successor states, Croatia, have a chance to accompany Italy to England.

Such are the changes in Europe's association football geography!

With 47 of UEFA's members hopeful of joining the host nation in England there will be ample opportunity to see how the wind continues to blow for and against the new and the old, the former mightily and the nouveaux riches at international level.



# USA '94 WORLD CUP SPECIAL

## INSIDE OUT

GOOD, BAD, funny, sad, life, death . . . the 1994 World Cup had a bit of everything. Here is a digest of a small proportion of what happened around the globe during the great soccer jamboree.

COMPILED BY DAVID PROLE & JOHN KELLY

## KOREA MOVES

PRESIDENT Kim Young-Sam of South Korea and Thailand's Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai, delayed a scheduled meeting for 20 minutes so that they could watch the end of the game between the Koreans and Bolivia.

Doctors postponed operations for the same reason, and 22,000 shipyard workers in Ulsan staged a three-hour strike so that they too could see the match.

## Flying Dutchmen

**THE DUTCH squad were fed up with planes long before their elimination.**

**During preparations in Canada, personal computers being used by journalists travelling with the squad affected the navigation system on one flight.**

**After the opening match, in Washington, the pilot had to make an emergency stop when another writer fell ill.**

**And the party's trip to Orlando for the quarter-final against Brazil was delayed for five hours after yet another journalist had jokingly claimed to have a bomb in his baggage.**

## NORVEGE . . . NIL POINTS

NORWAY'S failure at least spared music-lovers some grief. Jahn-Ivar Jakobsen had been promised that if he scored a goal during the tournament, a song-writer would pen a special tribute to him.

The song-writer? Jahn Teigen, who scored *nil points* as a singer during the 1978 Eurovision Song Contest. Jakobsen, like most of the squad, failed to hit the right note.

Another Norwegian who failed to hit anything, fortunately, was the fan in Trondheim who threw his TV set out of his third-floor window after his team had lost to Italy.

Off key . . . Norway's Jahn-Ivar Jakobsen.

## Bell rings the changes

THE Cameroon squad held their own election for a captain because of their dissatisfaction with the performances of Stephen Tataw *(right)*.

Goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell was chosen, with 14 votes . . . then promptly dropped himself from the team for the third game.

## FOOTBALL FEVER

CALLS to a counselling centre for battered women in Israel dropped by 50 per cent during the tournament, with so many men watching games on TV.

But in Dublin, requests for "morning after" birth control pills doubled on the day after the Republic of Ireland's surprise win over Italy.

## STILL NO BRAZIL v GERMANY

**BRAZIL have played in all 15 World Cups and Germany in 13, but they still have never played each other in any of the tournaments.**

## Sanchez loses his shirt

**RUNE BRATSETH, the Norway skipper, helps to organise a charity raising funds for deprived children.**

**He had a new item for sale after the World Cup . . . the jersey worn by Mexico's Hugo Sanchez during the match between the nations. Bratseth and Sanchez swapped shirts at the finish.**

## SAUDIS IN THE MONEY

SAUDI ARABIA did so well in the World Cup, against all expectations, that their bonus payments were doubled, from the original $100,000 to $200,000.

And the Mercedes car each player was given as a reward for reaching the final stages was followed by a Volvo.

Hard work paid off for the Saudis. They arrived in America on May 17, a month before the tournament began.

## Irish immigrants

**The Republic of Ireland set one record during the tournament, being the only country with all 22 players based abroad. Twenty of them were with English clubs, two with Scottish.**

**Italy, Greece and Saudi Arabia were the three countries whose squads were entirely based within their own national boundaries.**

## DRAW DATA

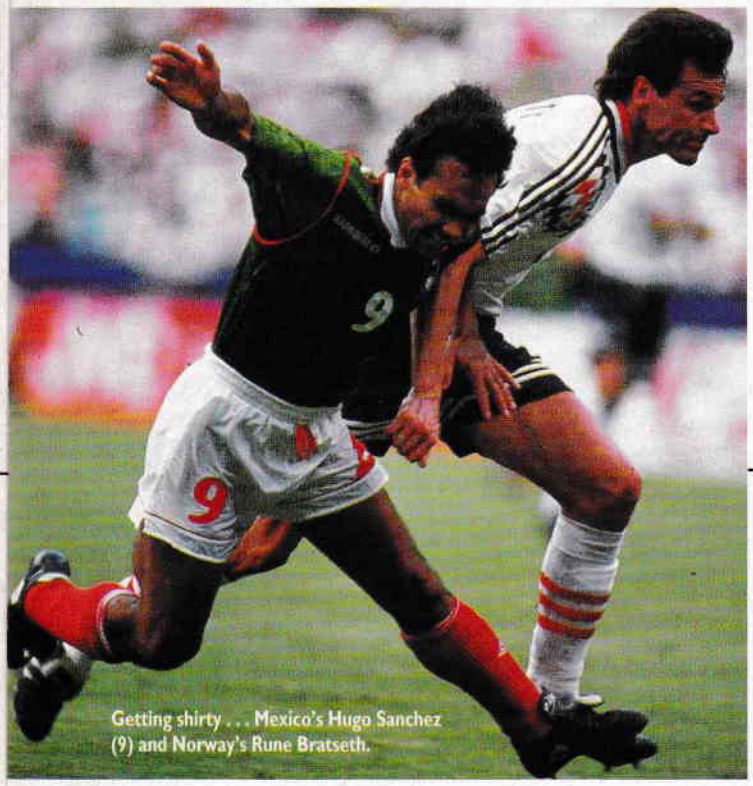
**ELEVEN of the 52 matches were drawn after 90 minutes, but only three of them — including Brazil v Italy — were without a goal.**

# SUDDEN DEATH

A ROMANIAN sports editor died of a heart attack shortly after his country beat the US 1-0.

Gheorghe Fainita, who was only 50, worked for the *Cotidianul* newspaper. A front-page article said: "A heart that stayed alive only for soccer was killed by the king of sports."

In Macao, 37-year-old Lo Chon-yin collapsed and died while serving in his coffee shop, after going without sleep for two successive nights. Televised World Cup coverage in the colony ran from 11.30pm to 7.30am.



Getting shirty . . . Mexico's Hugo Sanchez (9) and Norway's Rune Bratseth.

# Calamitous Colombians

THE death threats to Colombia's Gabriel Gomez *(right)*, followed by the appalling murder of Andres Escobar, have been well documented.

A couple of other Colombian items you may have missed: defender Luis Herrera's brother was killed in a road accident during the competition, and the squad's entire kit, including shirts, shorts, socks and training shoes, disappeared from Cali airport *en route* to the US.

# THE SAFEST HANDS IN SOCCER?

WHAT a weekend for goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel *(below)*. He helped Brazil to win the World Cup Final, left his medal and $60,000 cash in a taxi, then heard that he had been given a free transfer by his Italian club Reggiana!

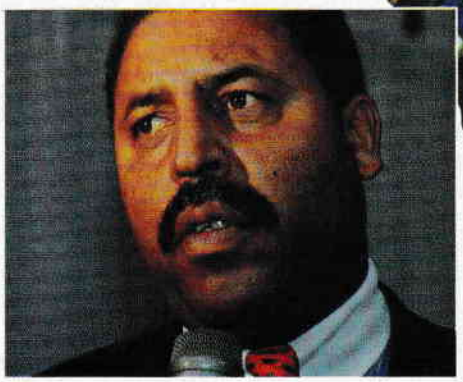
Taxi-drive Juan Blanco handed the medal and money to police, and Taffarel gave him some autographed souvenirs and $1,000.

# Moroccans collared

MOROCCO'S players wore surgical collars during training for the tournament.

According to coach Mohammed Blinda *(right)*, facilities back home were so bad that his men spent more time looking to dodge pot-holes than they did looking for the ball.

In the States, with first-rate pitches, that problem was avoided . . . but even so the players wore the collars to help them keep their heads up. Sadly, the team did not manage to play a blinder.



# OWN GOAL COUNT

ANDRES ESCOBAR's own goal in the Colombia v US match was the only one in the tournament and only the tenth in World Cup history.

The others were by Loertscher of Switzerland (for Germany in 1938, Bulgarians Voutsov (for Portugal) and Davidov (for Hungary) in 1966, Curran of Australia (for East Germany), Krol of Holland (for Bulgaria) and Perfumo of Argentina (for Italy) in 1974, Barmos of Czechoslovakia (for England in 1982), Cho-jung of South Korea (for Italy in 1986), and Abdulrahman of UAE (v Yugoslavia in 1990).

The 15 tournaments have contained 516 matches and 1,584 goals, an average of 3.06 per match.

**Keir Radnedge** on the next generation of World Cup heroes

# The YOUNG ONES

## RONALDO: *After Pele*

ZICO and Tostao are admirers. So is FIFA president Joao Havelange. So is Mario Zagalo, a veteran of Brazil's World Cup-winning team in 1958 and 1962 and their triumphant manager in 1970.

All are united in praise of Ronaldo, the 17-year-old Brazilian striker who is now soccer's most expensive teenager having just been signed by PSV Eindhoven for £4 million — thus disappointing Milan, Juventus and Ajax.

His age and natural talent raise instant comparisons with Pele. At the same age, Pele went to the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden as an unknown reserve and returned home a world figure. Ronaldo, by contrast, went to the 1994 World Cup finals as a reserve and remained a reserve. But coach Carlos Alberto Parreira never thought of his presence as any more important than as an observer with the future in mind.

Certainly his talent is not in question. Just listen to his admirers.

Zico, who starred for Brazil at the World Cup in 1978, 1982 and 1986, says: "Ronaldo is the best attacker in Brazilian soccer. He is equally skilled with the left or right foot. He is intelligent but, near goal, he is as cool and ruthless as the great goalscorers."

Tostao, Brazil's World Cup-winning centre-forward alongside Pele in 1970, says: "He has everything to become an international star. We're talking about a phenomenon."

In barely a year, Ronaldo has gone from unknown teenager with a second Division team in Rio de Janeiro to the darling of the nation, pursued by autograph seekers and marketing agents.

He still finds it hard to believe. Ronaldo says: "Not so long ago I was playing for Sao Cristovao and saw all these famous players on TV. Now, all of a sudden, I am one of them. It's crazy. It's fantastic!"

Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima grew up playing soccer the traditional way, on the streets and waste land in the working class district of Bento Ribeiro, on Rio's west side. He had a trial with Flamengo, Rio's most popular club, but they sent him away rather than pay the bus fare his family could not afford.

So Ronaldo went to Sao Cristovao and was spotted by Jairzinho, another veteran of the 1970 World Cup team, who recognised his potential. In due course, Jairzinho sold Ronaldo to Cruzeiro, one of the provincial giants in Belo Horizonte. After a year in the youth section, he was promoted into the first team and exploded on to the national scene.

In his first 54 games, he scored 54 goals, winning the league's scoring crown and leading Cruzeiro to the Minas Gerais State Championship. But it wasn't only the number of goals, it was how he scored them: right foot, left foot, headers, with speed, intelligence, power, finesse.

Tostao says: "He's a complete attacker. He has a good physique, is skilled, dribbles, passes and shoots equally well with his right or left foot. He's a fantastic player."

The comparisons with Pele were inevitable and Ronaldo came out ahead. His scoring average was higher than Pele's at the same age and Tostao claims that not even Pele had the equal skills in right and left foot which sets Ronaldo apart.

His youthful age and lack of experience meant Ronaldo was considered an outsider to secure a place in the World Cup squad. Especially with a manager as cautious and conservative as Parreira. But his chance came in Brazil's final home friendly against Iceland on May 4.

With Bebeto and Romario in Spain, Ronaldo not only started the game: he won it almost singlehandedly. He scored one goal, created two more and put on a dazzling

Teenage sensation . . . Ronaldo.

show *en route* to a 3-0 Brazilian victory.

Afterwards, even Parreira said the game had been worthwhile just to see Ronaldo play.

"It's incredible what he does with the ball," says defender Ricardo Gomes. Skipper Dunga adds: "He's a rare talent. Even though he still has a lot to learn, he is nearly a complete player already."

Now, he is learning to cope with stardom. He has just signed a deal to promote an American brand of footwear, a popular rap singer wants him to make a video and he is appearing in TV advertisements urgung youngsters to register to vote (the voting age in Brazil is 16). Ronaldo is learning — and fast — to take it all in his stride.

As he says: "I suppose it's natural that people talk about the coincidences with Pele's career. But before everyone gets carried away . . . let's see if I have anything like the talent, shall we?"

# ORTEGA: *After Diego*

**ARIEL ORTEGA travelled to the World Cup finals without feeling under any of the pressure which weighed on senior players, such as Gabrial Batistuta, Abel Balbo or Oscar Ruggeri. Certainly under none of the pressure surrounding Diego Maradona or the resurrected Claudio Caniggia.**

He was there, coach Alfio Basile had told him in a fatherly chat, to learn about the game at the highest level by watching the finest players. Then, after the World Cup and certainly in four years' time, he would be given his chance to scale the highest peaks of the game.

Ortega, short in height and light in weight, happily accepted that role. He told friends: "Just going to the World Cup finals is like a dream come true. Now, not only am I going but I will be able to see the best players at close range, share the dressing rooms and training pitches. I can't wait."

Born in the provincial city of General San Martin in the state of Jujuy on April 3, 1974, Ortega had never wanted to be anything else but a footballer. He played for local youth teams and then, at 15, was spotted by a local scout for River Plate of Buenos Aires.

Ortega counted River Plate's fleet-footed Claudio Caniggia as one of his heroes and career models and was thrilled at the prospect of playing for the same team. But, just as Ortega arrived in Buenos Aires, so Caniggia was sold to Italy.

For the first couple of years Ortega worked his way through the youth system. First-team coach Daniel Passarella delayed bringing him into the senior squad because he feared that, at 5' 7" and 140lbs Ortega was not physically strong enough to withstand the battering he would receive from ruthless defenders in the rugged Argentinian Championship.

But then Passarella had second thoughts. He said: "Maradona was smaller and lighter when he started playing and skill can make up for physical capacity, so I realised I was wrong and gave Ortega his chance. He has never let me down."

Not only did Ortega make an instant impression on Passarella and River Plate's fans but he also caught the eye of national coach Basile and was called up for his national team debut in a 3-1 win over Morocco on April 20.

Ortega made such an impression with his pace and close control and determination to succeed that — despite his late arrival on the scene — he was named in the squad of 23 preparing for the World Cup.

Argentinian ace . . . Ariel Ortega.

Now another challenge arose. One man would have to drop out on the eve of the finals to bring the squad down to the FIFA requisite number of 22. Ortega was an obvious candidate because of his youth and inexperience but he so impressed the other players in training and friendly matches that he stayed in and the experienced Dario Franco dropped out.

Argentina beat Greece and Nigeria comfortably. Then came crisis day, with Maradona expelled for drug-taking immediately before the group showdown against Bulgaria. Some 25 minutes into the match Caniggia went down with a recurrence of a toe injury. Basile looked along the bench, called up Ortega, and sent him into action.

Ortega, with all those talents recorded above, was Argentina's best player, bravely driving into the heart of Bulgaria's rugged defence. That Argentina lost 2-0 was no fault of his. Nor was he to blame for the 3-2 defeat by Romania in the second round when, this time, he started the game as Caniggia's fully-fledged deputy.

Ariel Ortega was Argentina's discovery of the 1994 World Cup finals. He looks sure to be a key figure of the new Argentina . . . particularly since Passarella, his boss at River Plate, is among the favourites to be nominated as Basile's replacement.

# Commentary

Keir Radnedge

# New challenges as a chapter ends

EACH World Cup is distinctive in its own way. Each, in the immediacy of the live action, bears the personality of the host nation but then lives on in the memory through the quality and drama of the football (or lack of it).

Conflicting verdicts were there in abundance after the US experience. Predictably, most American observers who had never seen a soccer match before, let alone the pinnacle of the game, called it the greatest World Cup ever.

Such judgments, built on sand, were worthless. A coterie of European football intellectuals — or those who would like to consider themselves as such — dismissed USA '94 as an over-hyped funfair, lacking class or any touch with "football reality."

Such judgments were typical evidence of European insularity and built, in many cases, on little more by way of foundation than their own nations' failures, either in the qualifiers or in the finals.

Truth, as ever, lies somewhere down the middle as I attempted to suggest last month somewhere in the midst of *WORLD SOCCER'S* match-by-match, goal-by-goal, blow-by-blow account of the finals.

The introduction of three points for a win plus the positive changes of interpretation over offside plus the insistence on outlawing the tackle from behind WHEN THE MAN IS PLAYED BEFORE THE BALL (which is the key element and has never been a matter of dispute within the Laws of the Game) were all highly positive.

The back-pass "ban" also helped significantly in raising the amount of "real time" in a game to around 62 minutes. That is good for fans and for the game at a time when so many sports are competing so much more aggressively for the attention of public, broadcasters and sponsors.

Soccer cannot live on memories; it has to move forward. FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter — whatever you may think about his devotion to the cause of the kick-in — is right in his basic premise that soccer must compete to survive, whatever its strength worldwide.

## •Scrap the referee committee

The most common, double-edged question I have been asked since the finals, is: how did the Americans take to soccer and the World Cup, and will the game now succeed in professional terms?

Like the question, the answer is hedged around with ifs and buts. Certainly the American public took to the World Cup as a colourful and fun event. A certain percentage will no doubt have developed a new respect and sympathy for soccer as a result. In general, however, appreciating the World Cup for a one-off extravaganza is very different to appreciating the all-over sport of association football.

Major League Soccer, when and if it gets off the ground next April, will not match the World Cup's quality standard and the uncertainty over both its short-term and long-term prospects will not enhance the image of the game. One significant piece of progress was achieved in terms of media appreciation of soccer. I was pleasurably surprised by the extent and quality of the coverage the World Cup received in the print media in the venue cities, with *The Los Angeles Times*, in particular, providing extensive and well-mixed coverage of not only the

Fluid farce . . . Jack Charlton made sure his Irish players got water during matches by throwing it on from the touchline.

Final fiasco . . . referee Sandor Puhl (centre) could not rely on his linesmen in the Final.

games, but the personalities and the issues.

It was noticeable, also, that even the television channels which did NOT enjoy the exclusivity bought up by *ABC* and *ESPN* ensured that the World Cup results were always at or near the top of their sports reports. Similarly, the local TV stations in the venue cities took full advantage of whatever peripheral events were available for coverage.

The perfect World Cup has yet to be staged, so I have little sympathy with some of the nit-pick criticism of the organisation of USA '94. I do believe that, given the size of the nation and the travel distances, the knock-out stages were organised badly, without sensible thought having been given to the logistical needs of the teams.

On the other hand, I have only minor sympathy for complaints about the conditions (i.e. the heat and humidity). It's no good managers and players — and, in truth, it was managers and officials who moaned more than players — complaining about kick-off times set for European TV when they were happy enough, no doubt, to cream off the financial riches which accrued to them, indirectly, thanks to worldwide television coverage.

In too many cases the complaints about the heat sounded like getting in the excuses ahead of a feared bad result.

The World Cup has to be staged in June/July if it is to be convenient for the European nations. That is the only "window" in the European calendar. Think how the Europeans would moan if the World Cup, to achieve a kinder climatic presence, had been scheduled for March or October!

And then, conditions which may suit northern Europeans might not suit the Latin Europeans, let alone the Latin Americans, the Africans, or the Asians.

No World Cup will ever provide an ideal climate for all the teams. Just accept the fact, prepare PROPERLY for the conditions , and ATTEND THE FIFA BRIEFINGS which are organised in advance. Several countries did not take the pre-finals meetings seriously enough and were thus caught on the hop, bleating on the eve of the event that they did not know what was happening regarding refereeing changes, regarding water provision, regarding media arrangements.

FIFA should give due consideration, in future, to levying heavy fines on federations which do not appear to take their World Cup responsibilities seriously enough. They have a responsibility to the game as a whole. The one clear factor about heat and humidity is that four weeks is not long enough to run a World Cup in which the last four nations must play seven games.

The players have come through a tough nine-month domestic league season and, quite clearly, have little left to give by the time the semi-finals, third-place play-off match and the Final come around.

I suggested last month in these columns that the organisers of the gargantuan, 32-team, 1998 World Cup in France should seek a formula which would provide a maximum of six matches. But, honestly, I do not see them doing that. The 32-team formula will maintain positive attitudes in the first round because ONLY the top two teams will go through; there will be no wild cards for the four best third-placed teams with the best records. Thus, while four weeks appears to me to be quite long enough for a World Cup, extra time must be allowed to provide teams with the opportunity for physical relief and recuperation in the closing stages.

Remember the way Germany fell apart in the second half against Italy in the 1982 Final? Remember the way Argentina faded away against Germany in the 1986 Final (granted, they revived long enough to snatch victory on the counter?) Remember the awful 1990 Final? Remember the hollow feeling left by the penalty shoot-out disaster in Pasadena?

## • Leave a longer gap before the Final

The World Cup Final should be the ultimate showpiece. Perhaps it would not be asking too much for the semi-finals and the Final to be split by a full week. The World Cup, as FIFA and the Americans realised, is a promotional weapon for the game in general and it does the sport no favours if its greatest single event is

Tactical tinkering . . . Romania offered one of the few advances at USA '94.

scarred and marred by physical and mental fatigue.

That's one suggestion which FIFA should, at least, consider. It would also provide the option of stretching the main body of the tournament — from first round to semi-finals — over the full first four weeks, which might help avoid some of the logistical pitfalls suffered by USA '94.

Now, talking ideals brings me round to the next, obvious, subject: referees and linesmen.

First the plus: introducing proper linesmen was a huge advance. Not that all of them were up to the job. The Colombian and the Iranian in the Final were awful; Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl had to do their jobs for them.

To refine the system further it is imperative — however much FIFA may not want to appear to be copying UEFA — that single-nation teams of officials are used, with the referee and linesmen all coming from the same country. They must speak the same language, both literally and football-metaphorically, and they must be on a general level of trust and competence.

Secondly, the minus: after the messy refereeing in 1990 we were promised that a sea-change would be effected, that only the world's best referees would be appointed to the 1994 finals. Plainly, that did not happen. It is simply not credible that only one country (Italy) had two referees above the one-man-one-country level of everybody else.

Italy's Paolo Casarin has done a good job in bending the interpretation of the laws of the game. Now he must be directed to sort out the sheep from the goats, to study the capabilities and qualities of referees worldwide and draw up a formal ranking list. If the best 24 referees in the world include five Italians, five Germans and five Frenchmen, then so be it. The World Cup must have the BEST referees, not the referees with the loudest advocates.

I am sorry to come back to the Syrian, Jamal Al Sharif, but he typified the refereeing problems. This was his third World Cup and, as such, he was judged "highly experienced" and thus qualified to ref-

Indecisive Illgner . . . the German keeper was well below par at USA '94.

## • Listen to what FIFA say

eree Mexico v Bulgaria in the second round. But gaining experience at World Cups does not equate with experience in general. Al Sharif was all over the place in Giants Stadium. He was a flop as a linesman in 1990, which should have told someone something about his potential to control a clash of footballing cultures at such a high level as the second round of the World Cup finals.

He was, to be fair, placed in a situation beyond him. That was not his fault. It was the fault of the appointments system and the people who ran it.

Referees are human, they can make mistakes like anyone else, like players, like journalists, and should be allowed some latitude. But referees are under pressure now like never before, because of video technology. Only the best referees should be appointed.

Indeed, I would suggest that FIFA consider scrapping the role of the referees' committee altogether for World Cup finals appointments and give the job to one man, one professional, working with perhaps two advisers. That would remove, as far as possible, the long-standing suspicions — whether justified or not — that refereeing appointments are subject to political wrangling.

Refereeing justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done.

From referees to players . . . via tactics. The 1994 World Cup offered little that was new in terms of tactical shapes. More teams than in 1990 played with comparatively flat back-fours and more teams packed an extra man into midfield. The best example was Romania, who used three central defenders (two markers and a sweeper) then a net of six men strung across midfield with a variety of duties but all available to support the single striker (Raducioiu or, against Argentina, Dumitrescu).

Brazil, who gave the game the formalised 4-2-4 and then 4-3-3 in 1958 and 1962, offered a couple of interesting refinements to 4-4-2.

One was the way they organised the middle four: with Dunga and Mauro Silva deep in the centre of midfield, both screening central defence and available to take passes out and launch quick counter-attacks; also, the way in which the Brazilians positioned their wide midfielders Mazinho, or Rai and Zinho, up ahead of the central pairing.

They were thus available for creative duties but also in place to block, quickly, attacks developing down the opponents' wings. Against Holland, in the quarter-finals, Overmars was reduced to nothing for much of the match thanks to Zinho's efforts in supporting the "real" full-back, Branco.

General agreement reigned over the best individuals. Jorginho and Maldini were pretty unanimous choices as top defenders; Hagi and the recreated Brolin in midfield; Romario and Roberto Baggio in attack. Not far behind were Costacurta and Benarrivo, Chamot, Marcio Santos and Belodedici in defence; Mauro Silva, Dunga, Garcia Aspe, Redondo, the classy Lechkov, hard-working Balakov, Schwarz and the disgraced Maradona in midfield; Bebeto and Klinsmann in attack.

But what happened to Valderrama, Scifo, Koeman and a host of other big names spread across the nations?

One weak position was in goal, where it was not enough to blame the new World Cup ball. Preud'homme shone early on then let himself down against Germany in the second round; De Goey was generally secure if unsung for Holland; Ravelli got better as the tournament went on and Campos's excellent reflex work against the Republic of Ireland and Bulgaria proved that he is more than just a fancy shirt. But Illgner was far from his most commanding for Germany; Islas a major disappointment for Argentina; and Pagliuca unpredictably frightening for Italy.

Brazil were deserved winners because they were the best team on view, though even they were starting to lose their zip by the time the Final came around.

They are, paradoxically, among the majority of nations who must find new national managers, Carlos Alberto Parreira having become coach at Valencia, as well as new players — though their need for new blood out on the pitch is not as immediate as with other nations.

Germany must rebuild virtually from scratch, which will tell us an awful lot about the depth of talent — or lack of it — in the Bundesliga; Holland need to clear out the old guard, thus allowing manager Dick Advocaat to work with players who owe their loyalty to him rather than past memories; Argentina must enter a whole new era without Maradona (which should be good news). But Mexico will, hopefully, keep a fine team together, and the likes of Bolivia, South Korea and Saudi Arabia should be pleased with their appearances on soccer's centre stage.

Bulgaria, Romania and Sweden should prove difficult opponents for their European Championship rivals, as will the Irish Republic if they can solve the inherent problem caused by a lack of attacking talent. It cost them everything at USA '94.

But that is what World Cups are about: the changing balance of world football. To some extent, the World Cup finals are the end of a chapter.

But they also set new challenges . . . for FIFA and the game in general as much as for the individual nations and players.

How many lessons will be taken on board in time for France '98?

Or even, come to that and of greater immediate importance here, in time for Euro '96?

# PLATINI PLANS CULTURAL CUP

**MICHEL PLATINI, the greatest personality in French football, has promised that the 1998 World Cup finals in his country will outshine USA '94.**

Platini *(above)*, former European Footballer of the Year as well as former national manager, was in the United States in his role as joint president of the French 1998 World Cup organising committee. He appreciated all the efforts the Americans made but believes that France can do better.

He said, on his return to his office at the French Federation headquarters in Paris: "We are organising the greatest World Cup ever. It will cost $1.5billion. We know we cannot match the 3.5million attendances at USA '94 but we do believe we can make the 1998 event a great feast of football. More convivial. More cultural.

"The important difference is that football is our No. 1 sport in France and the country is small enough for people to go from one city to another in less than 90 minutes by air. In the United States it was five hours from one side of the country to the other and many of the 'simplest' journeys took at least two hours or more by air."

French football fans were bitterly disappointed when their national team failed to qualify for USA '94, being beaten in the last few seconds of the qualifying tournament by Bulgaria, whose success in finishing fourth only enhanced the French sense of loss.

The 1994 finals will bring in record profits but Platini says that financial success will be considered less important than prestige.

"The financial cost is hard to estimate," he said. "Altogether, including the construction costs of the new Grand'Stade at Saint-Denis near Paris, and the renovation of our other stadia, the bill could reach $1.5billion. But we are not obsessed with the idea of making a big profit. We are not running it like a private company, as the Americans did. We are a non-profit-making association."

The 1998 finals will be the first featuring the expanded 32-team format, which means eight first-round groups of four teams. Then the top two teams from each group only will qualify for the second round instead of the top two plus the four third-placed teams with the best records.

Platini said: "We will have about 170 countries in the qualifying competition, which will be almost 40 more than the 1994 competition, and the finals should guarantee about 40 billion television viewers for the 64 matches.

"We plan to have a special opening ceremony, similar to the Olympic Games, which will be staged in the Champs Elysees in Paris. We have many other cultural projects in mind.

"This is such a great opportunity for France. There will be more finalists and more matches. So we are confident it will be the greatest of World Cups."

The projected venues are Bordeaux, Lens, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nantes, Saint Etienne, Toulouse plus both the Grand'Stade and the Parc des Princes in Paris.

The Final will be staged in the Grand'Stade, which will have an all-seater 85,000 capacity (Parc des Princes, the present national stadium, holds 50,000).

# Blatter backs Golden Goal

**KNOCK-OUT matches which reach 90 minutes all-square at the 1998 World Cup finals will be decided, where possible, by sudden death. But FIFA also will consider other ways of avoiding a repeat of the penalty shoot-out which marred the 1994 Final.**

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said: "We expected brilliant teams such as Italy and Brazil would give us a brilliant performance. They gave it, but only in extra time and in the penalty shoot-out. As a drama for TV the penalty shoot-out was the absolute highlight but it was not what we in football expected from the final.

"The problem is we can't play indefinitely, so perhaps a solution could be to add 10 more minutes after extra time. At least for France in 1998, at the next World Cup, we will be using sudden death after 90 minutes. I don't like the English words, sudden death, because that is so negative. Some sort of decision is about winning a match, not losing it. So maybe we will need a new label. We could call it the golden goal or perhaps even the tie-breaker."

Blatter said FIFA would consider further possibilities but he would prefer not to extend the game beyond 120 minutes, particularly in conditions of heat and humidity such as those in America. He added: "In the Final it would not have been possible to add more time because, in these conditions, playing for more than two hours would affect the health of the players. If no goal fell in extra time, teams should accept the penalty shoot-out. We were not happy with what happened in Pasadena but we had to have a winner and you can't repeat the match."

Choosing the winner on the strength of corners won or fewer bookings also would be unsatisfactory, he said. But FIFA would consult players, coaches and the media in the search for further options.

FIFA implemented penalty shoot-outs for the knock-out or direct elimination stages from 1982. The first match thus decided in the finals was the semi-final that year, in which West Germany defeated France in Seville, Spain. While the shoot-out had decided several second-round, quarter-final and semi-final matches since then, it never before had decided the Final.

FIFA already have introduced the sudden-death finish in youth competition. It was used at the World Under-17 Cup in Japan and UEFA have not only tried it in the European Youth Championship but also will operate it at finals of the the 1996 European Championship in England.

US soccer chief Alan Rothenberg said he intended, in the wake of the success of the 1994 World Cup finals, to bring American soccer up to the same public level as American football, basketball and baseball within the next decade.

Rothenberg said the finals had proved a much bigger success than anyone had expected and had provided an ideal platform for the professional league which is planned to start next April.

Rothenberg, head of the US World Cup organising comittee, the American soccer federation and the professional league, Major League Soccer, said most of the US World Cup players would join the new 12-team grouping next year.

He said: "Everything we do is long-term. We expect 12,000 to 13,000

average crowds at the start and we will build slowly from that. We're not expecting overnight success. It could take 10 years to move our sport to the level of the big ones: football, baseball and basketball. The 31 days of the World Cup were dream-like. But we're realists. We realise that the path ahead won't be the instant success it appeared in these 31 days."

Rothenberg said the US team had gained in respect and had been invited to play at the Maracana stadium in Rio against world champions Brazil and against England at Wembley on September 7.

He added: "Before, we would have had to beg and probably pay them to play us. Now we're getting that kind of offer coming in from outside."

On the controversial subject of television, Rothenberg said domestic ratings had been surprisingly high and that an opinion poll by one network showed six in 10 Americans wanted a professional soccer league. He also announced a four-year sponsorship deal with a fitness and footwear company that would cover American national team squads.

Rothenberg also was confident that profits from the World Cup would comfortably exceed the $20-25 million that had been projected. The surplus which becomes available for the American organisers — FIFA split the profits so that all the finalists receive a share according to their team's progress in the tournament — will be used for soccer development in the United States.

The Final received an "instant" TV rating of 12.4 which overtook the 10.2 overnight rating for the United States' second-round loss to Brazil on July 4. That game wound up with a 9.3 national rating, the previous record for soccer on US television.

As if further proof were needed of soccer's arrival as a competitive sport on the television waves, the Final — which was broadcast by *ABC* — drew a 29 share, swamping the opposition on the *CBS* and *NBC* networks. The Ameritech Senior Golf Open on *CBS* got a 2.3 rating and a 5 share, and the Big Apple Classic women's golf tournament on *NBC* got a 1.3 rating and a 3 share.

The rating is the percentage of the television households in the nation watching a programme and the share is the percentage among televisions on at the time.

*ABC* expect to wind up with an average rating of between 5.0 and 6.0 for 11 telecasts, above the network's pre-World Cup projection of 4.0-4.5.

Applauding the warmth of the fans and the trouble-free atmosphere, Rothenberg said: "What we had was a gigantic love-in. People had a wonderful time together, enjoying each other's company. That's what's going to stay in my memory. It was a great thing for the US and the world."

# Brazil sweep the awards board

**BRAZIL collected more than the World Cup. They also won the FIFA fair play prize as well as the trophy for the most entertaining team of the finals.**

**In a telephone poll conducted by the *USA Today* newspaper and backed by FIFA, the Brazilians were selected as the most entertaining of the 24 World Cup finalists. Nigeria were second and Italy third. Brazil also won the fair play award, based on the number of yellow and red cards received as well as team and fan behaviour. Holland were second, Sweden third.**

**The award for the leading scorer, based on a new FIFA system of giving three points for a goal and one for an assist, was shared by Russian Oleg Salenko and Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov. Each totalled 19 points from six goals and one assist. Third, with 18 points from five goals and three assists, was Romario of Brazil who won the player of the tournament award ahead of Roberto Baggio of Italy and Stoichkov.**

**FIFA's new Lev Yashin goalkeeper award went to Michel Preud'homme of Belgium.**

**The All-Star team — the first time FIFA has allowed an official selection to be named — was as follows: Preud'homme (Bel) — Jorginho (Bra), Maldini (Ita), Marcio Santos (Bra) — Brolin (Swe), Hagi (Rom), Dunga (Bra), Balakov (Bul) — Stoichkov (Bul), Romario (Bra), R. Baggio (Ita).**

**The team was selected by FIFA's technical study group for a promotion by MasterCard. The technical study group included coaches Jozef Venglos (Slovakia), Andy Roxburgh (ex-Scotland), Gerard Houllier (ex-France) and former Peruvian forward Cachito Ramirez.**

Top man . . . Romario of Brazil.

# GET TOUGH WITH MARADONA, SAYS JOHANSSON

**DIEGO MARADONA is the subject of new controversy — this time a looming row between FIFA president Joao Havelange and the UEFA president Lennart Johansson, top official in European football.**

The issue is the punishment likely to be imposed on Maradona *(right)* after his expulsion from USA '94 for taking a cocktail of drugs containing five banned, ephedrine-based substances.

Havelange has suggested that Maradona may be let off lightly when FIFA's disciplinary commission makes a definite ruling. But Johansson believes no leniency should be shown.

He says: "I strongly disagree with the FIFA president when he says Maradona should not be punished too severely, given the circumstances of his case. I appreciate this is a matter for FIFA's disciplinary committee but we all have a right to make our views known."

Maradona tested positive for ephedrine, a banned stimulant found in many over-the-counter medicines, and four other related prohibited substances. His suspension, one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history, came a few hours before he had been due to make a record 22nd finals appearance against Bulgaria.

FIFA suspended Maradona on June 30 for the duration of the tournament pending a decision in the autumn.

Johansson, who is also a FIFA vice-president, said he had been in charge of the dope-control formalities when the first sample tested positive. Argentinian officials and the team doctor charged there had been irregularities in the procedure and the second sample was accordingly tested. Both samples showed positive after analysis at the UCLA doping laboratory in California.

Johansson also said he felt if was wrong that the 33-year-old Maradona had been given media accreditation to work as a commentator after the suspension. He said: "I could not understand this. It seemed so wrong to me when you took into account the history."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# ITALIAN JURY STILL OUT ON SACCHI

**ITALY'S World Cup runners-up went home to a hero's welcome — all except coach Arrigo Sacchi, who has became only more controversial the longer the finals went on and the longer Italy survived.**

Milan skipper and sweeper Franco Baresi, who ballooned his kick over the bar at the start of the penalty shoot-out in the Final, said: "We gave everything we could and our conscience is clear."

Striker Roberto Baggio, struggling against a hamstring injury yet chosen to take Italy's fifth penalty — also lifted high over the bar — said: "Normally I place my kicks. But I had no energy left so I just hit it hard."

Baggio had produced two dramatic finishes for Italy in their stuttering progress to the Final but this was just too much. To complete his disappointment, he finished second behind Romario in the sportswriters' vote for player of the tournament.

At least Sacchi *(above, right)* was honest enough to admit the better team won. He said: "We made enormous progress throughout these finals but Brazil at the moment have just that little bit extra."

Sacchi gambled in the final by fielding Roberto Baggio despite injury and recalling veteran Baresi just three weeks after knee surgery. He explained: "Soccer is made up of so many factors and is about people. It seemed to me immoral not to pick Baggio and Baresi if they said they thought they could make it. They've been two of the most important players over the past three years."

Sacchi has a contract until the 1996 European Championship and intends to honour it. He has come in for heavy attack from fans, officials and media for the frequent changes of tactics and team selection during the finals.

He said: "I found myself in a strange situation because the support I have

always enjoyed from the press was reduced to a minimum and the public also lost a little faith. I tried to do my best and I think we did as well as possible."

Sacchi coached a Milan team featuring brilliant Dutchmen Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten to Italian League and Champions Cup triumphs and was hired three years ago to bring Milan's spectacular soccer to the national team.

Little of that thrilling style has been seen but the professionalism and spirit which lift Milan out of the ordinary was evident in the US. Although beaten by Ireland in their opening match, Italy came through to defeat Norway with 10 men in the next.

Sacchi said: "That could have been the end for us but everyone pulled together at a vital time."

He said the heat and humidity had been a greater problem than they had expected and disturbed their normal style of football. Overall, however, he judged the tournament a great success and added: "My fear is for future tournaments where there will be matches played in front of just 10,000 or 20,000 and that will look bad in comparison with here."

# No dispute as Sadyrin goes

RUSSIAN World Cup coach Pavel Sadyrin resigned after his team's dismal performances at the finals in the United States. He will be replaced by Oleg Romantsev, coach of the country's top side, Moscow Spartak. Romantsev will continue to hold his job with Spartak and run the national side — at least initially — on a part-time basis.

Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian FA, said Sadyrin's resignation had been accepted unanimously. His departure was inevitable when Russia were eliminated in the first round at USA '94 after their preparations had been undermined by a dispute between Sadyrin and 12 of the country's leading players.

These included midfielder Igor Shalimov (Internazionale) and forwards Andrei Kanchelskis (Manchester United) and Sergei Kiriakov (Karlsruhe) who refused to play for Russia unless Sadyrin was dismissed.

Koloskov, a Soviet-era sports administrator, who backed Sadyrin during the conflict, praised him for the utmost courage and patriotism. But some sports figures and journalists have called for his resignation following the World Cup debacle. Koloskov said the soccer union realised, all too late, that it had been a mistake to negotiate with the rebels and keep some of them in the squad. This split the team from the start and those loyal to Sadyrin felt betrayed.

Koloskov said: "As a result, the players did not respect each other and were suspicious of each other."

Sadyrin defended his record, saying: "We did the right thing but our expectations did not come true."

Romantsev, who works with several of the national team already because they are players at his club, said: "I am very excited with this challenge of taking Russia into the qualifying round of the European Championship. I am also nervous about failing, which is why I will work as I have never worked in my life."

Russia lost 2-0 to eventual world champions Brazil and 3-1 to eventual third-placed finishers Sweden in the opening round of the World Cup. Their only success was a 6-1 win over Cameroon, the biggest victory in the tournament, and a match destined for the record books because Oleg Salenko set an individual World Cup scoring record with five goals in one game.

## FINAL USA '94 SCORERS

**6** Salenko (Russia), Stoichkov (Bulgaria)

**5** Klinsmann (Germany), R. Baggio (Italy), Romario (Brazil), K. Andersson (Sweden).

**4** Dahlin (Sweden), Batistuta (Argentina), Raducioiu (Romanio).

**3** Bebeto (Brazil), Hagi (Romania), Caminero (Spain), Bergkamp (Holland), Brolin (Sweden).

**2** Goikoetxea (Spain), Dumitrescu (Romania), Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Amin (Saudi Arabia), Caniggia (Argentina), Myong-bo (South Korea), Amokachi & Amunike (Nigeria), Voller (Germany), Albert (Belgium), Jonk (Holland), D Baggio (Italy), Lechkov (Bulgaria), Bregy (Switzerland).

**1** Julio Salinas, Guardiola, Hierro, Luis Enrique & Beguiristain (Spain), Sunhong & Jung-won (South Korea), Wynalda & Stewart (US), Houghton & Aldridge (Republic of Ireland), Degryse & Grun (Belgium), Rekdal (Norway), Ljung, H Larsson & Mild (Sweden), Embe, Omam-Biyik & Milla (Cameroon), Rai, Marcio Santos & Branco (Brazil), Taument, Roy & Winter (Holland), Maradona & Balbo (Argentina), Yekini, George & Siasia (Nigeria), Alberto Garcia & Bernal (Mexico), Sutter, Chapuisat & Knup (Switzerland), Radchenko (Russia), Al Jaber, Al Gheshayan & Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Chaouch & Nader (Morocco), Borimirov & Sirakov (Bulgaria), Lozano & Gaviria (Colombia), Riedle & Matthaus (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Petrescu (Romania).

**Og** Escobar (Colombia).

# MATTHAUS DILEMMA

**GERMAN World Cup captain Lothar Matthaus *(right)* says he may quit the national team after the World Cup knock-out.**

**Matthaus claimed Germany's campaign, which ended in a humiliating 2-1 defeat against Bulgaria, had floundered on a lack of trust between players and Berti Vogts.**

**He said: "For 15 years I have tried to give everything for my country and the team. But the way things were run in the World Cup, I don't know whether I should continue.**

**"Vogts told some players days before the Bulgaria game who would play. I only found out about it by chance. So what does that say about me? It suggests that I was the wrong captain for Vogts, if he was not prepared to trust me.**

**"If he doesn't rate me then something has gone wrong. I don't expect that the coach should always take my advice. But at least I think he should listen to it. Instead, Vogts preferred to get advice from others."**

**Matthaus also criticised some of his team-mates, though he did not name them. He said: "Many of the other players seemed unprepared to give their best."**

**As for the future, Matthaus said: "I understand Vogts has said he will stay on as coach. Maybe he will want me to help. If so, I would need to feel that I could trust my superiors to give me responsibility."**

**Matthaus revealed that Vogts had barred adult movie channels from the hotel rooms the team stayed in during the competition. Matthaus added: "Vogts is a man who thinks about everything, from the recreation programme to tactics. Perhaps sometimes, he thinks about too many things which a coach should not bother with."**

# Booty on the other foot for Brazil

**BRAZIL'S World Cup-winning footballers raised an unexpected controversy when they made their all-conquering homecoming amid a political scandal which involved the state President, the Finance Minister and the head of the Brazilian FA.**

The nation's tax chief quit in anger the day after President Itamar Franco overruled his order and told customs officials at Rio's international airport to wave through all 18 tons of excess baggage being carried on the team plane returning from Los Angeles.

Osires Lopes Filho, who resigned as federal revenue secretary, said: "Nobody can be above the law. Everyone, not only the middle class and the poor, must pay taxes. So must footballers."

Trouble began the day after the World Cup final when the Varig DC-10 carrying the 97-member delegation was delayed for four hours in Los Angeles because of excess weight. After marathon parades in Recife and Brasilia, the delegation arrived in Rio for a four-hour ticker-tape parade before an estimated one million fans.

Brazilian law permits citizens to bring up to $500 worth of items purchased abroad into the country duty free. But customs officials grew concerned when five trucks arrived to drive the team's luggage to the hotel. Items bought in the US included 18 television sets, computers, refrigerators, fax machines, laser printers, microwave ovens, gymnastics equipment, a barbecue grill, dishwashers and even a leather horse saddle.

Customs officials estimated that defenders Jorginho and Branco brought back a combined total of $8,800 in electronics and housewares. Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had $5,000- worth of computer and television equipment. All in all, about $1 million in duty should have been paid.

Lopes Filho ordered the baggage held and inspected and Ricardo Teixeira, the confederation president, called the stars down from the fire truck due to carry them in triumph through the streets of Rio de Janeiro.

They immediately removed the merit medals awarded at the presidential palace and threatened to boycott the parade. Star striker Romario said: "We didn't smuggle anything. We represented Brazil before two billion people around the world. If they don't release my luggage, I'll give my medal back."

Teixeira told the presidential palace and, at midnight, received a call ordering that the victory parade go ahead and that the baggage be released. Teixeira said later: "That goal scored by Branco to break the 2-2 tie against Holland in the quarter-finals was worth a lot more than a refrigerator or a TV."

Customs officials are now threatening to sue the confederation for non-payment of the duties.

Only one player, midfielder Mauro Silva, offered to pay his share, though a newspaper poll showed 79 per cent of Brazilians thought their heroes should have paid up.

This was not the only problem as the Brazilians returned home. Fans in the city of Sao Paulo were upset when not all the players turned out for a civic parade there. Parreira, Romario, Leonardo, Muller, Zetti and Rai were absent because of prior commitments.

Several players were on duty with Sao Paulo FC in the Libertadores Cup while others were discussing transfers with their agents and club officials.

Marcio Santos was negotiating with Fiorentina, Tottenham and his French club Bordeaux. Then the London side were also trying to buy striker Muller from Sao Paulo. His prospects of returning to Europe — where he played previously with Torino of Italy — depended on whether Sao Paulo managed to successfully defend their South American club title. Sao Paulo, who have won the World Club Cup for the last two years in Tokyo, hoped to keep Muller for a possible third successive final against European champions Milan in Japan in December.

## Apologies . . . and thanks

**THE writers should not have written them, but they did. The back-up team should have spotted them, but they did not.**

So a few mistakes crept into our August World Cup souvenir issue of *WORLD SOCCER*. Our apologies go to all readers, and our thanks to those who pointed out the following:

Etcheverry of Bolivia (page 24) was not the first player sent off in a World Cup finals Opening Match: Kana-Biyik and Massing of Cameroon were dismissed at Italia '90.

The results (page 34 ) included Switzerland 1 Colombia 2: the correct score was 0-2.

In US v Colombia (page 18) Valenciano substituted for Asprilla.

In Spain v South Korea (page 25) Guerrero started the game, not Caminero, and Caminero replaced Guerrero after 46 minutes.

The booklet referred to Germany beating Hungary 8-3 in 1954, when in fact Hungary won 8-3, and to Argentina kicking off at the same time as Brazil in the 1978 quarter-finals, when in fact the Brazil match finished in time for the Argentinians to know exactly how many goals they needed.

## MASTERCARD AWARD WINNERS —

### MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF THE MATCH

| | MATCH | PLAYER | CHOSEN CHARITY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Germany v Bolivia | Jurgen KLINSMANN (Ger) | Orphanage in Queretaro |
| 2 | Spain v South Korea | Jon GOIKOETXEA (Spa) | Cancer Research Centre (Spain) |
| 3 | US v Switzerland | Eric WYNALDA (US) | UNICEF |
| 4 | Rep. Ireland v Italy | Ray HOUGHTON (Rep. Ire) | GOAL aid for Third World |
| 5 | Romania v Colombia | Gheorghe HAGI (Rom) | Orphanage in Bucharest |
| 6 | Belgium v Morocco | Marc DE GRYSE (Bel) | Orphanage in Toluca, Mexico |
| 7 | Norway v Mexico | Kjetil REKDAL (Nor) | UNICEF |
| 8 | Cameroon v Sweden | Marc Vivien FOE (Cam) | UNICEF |
| 9 | Brazil v Russia | ROMARIO (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |
| 10 | Holland v Saudi Arabia | Wim JONK (Hol) | UNICEF |
| 11 | Argentina v Greece | Diego MARADONA (Arg) | UNICEF |
| 12 | Spain v Germany | Jon GOIKOETXEA (Spa) | Cancer Research Center (Spain) |
| 13 | Nigeria v Bulgaria | Emmanuel AMUNIKE (Nig) | UNICEF |
| 14 | Switzerland v Romania | Ciriaco SFROZA (Swi) | Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society |
| 15 | US v Colombia | Ernie STEWART (US) | UNICEF |
| 16 | Italy v Norway | Dino BAGGIO (Ita) | Aid for children in Rwanda |
| 17 | Bolivia v South Korea | Carlos TRUCCO (Bol) | Orphanage in La Paz |
| 18 | Mexico v Rep. Ireland | Luis GARCIA (Mex) | UNICEF |
| 19 | Brazil v Cameroon | ROMARIO (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |
| 20 | Sweden v Russia | Martin DAHLIN (Swe) | Save the Children |
| 21 | Belgium v Holland | Philippe ALBERT (Bel) | Orphanage in Toluca |
| 22 | Saudi Arabia vMorocco | Fuad AMIN (SA) | War Victims of Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| 23 | Argentina v Nigeria | Claudio CANIGGIA (Arg) | UNICEF |
| 24 | Bulgaria v Greece | Zlatko YANKOV (Bul) | Orphanage in Sofia |
| 25 | Romania v US | Dan PETRESCU (Rom) | Orphanage in Bucharest |
| 26 | Colombia v Switzerland | Herman GAVIRIA (Col) | UNICEF |
| 27 | Spain v Bolivia | Jose Luis CAMINERO (Spa) | Orphanage in Madrid |
| 28 | Germany v South Korea | Jurgen KLINSMANN (Ger) | Orphanage in Queretaro |
| 29 | Rep. Ireland v Norway | Pat BONNER (Rep. Ireland) | GOAL aid for Third World |
| 30 | Italy v Mexico | Daniele MASSARO (Ita) | Aid for children in Rwanda |
| 31 | Russia v Cameroon | Oleg SALENKO (Rus) | Handicapped athletes in Russia |
| 32 | Sweden v Brazil | Kennet ANDERSSON (Swe) | Save the Children |
| 33 | Holland v Morocco | Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol) | UNICEF |
| 34 | Saudi Arabia v Belgium | Saeed OWAIRAN (SA) | War victims of Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| 35 | Nigeria v Greece | Daniel AMOKACHI (Nig) | UNICEF |
| 36 | Bulgraia v Argentina | Hristo STOICHKOV (Bul) | Orphanage in Sofia |
| 37 | Germany v Belgium | Rudi VOLLER (Ger) | Orphanage in Queretaro |
| 38 | Spain v Switzerland | Fernando HIERRO (Spa) | Disabled children in Malaga |
| 39 | Sweden v Saudi Arabia | Kennet ANDERSSON (Swe) | Save the Children |
| 40 | Romania v Argentina | Gheorghe HAGI (Rom) | Orphanage in Bucharest |
| 41 | Holland v Rep. Ireland | Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol) | UNICEF |
| 42 | Brazil v US | ROMARIO (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |
| 43 | Italy v Nigeria | Roberto BAGGIO (Ita) | Aid for children in Rwanda |
| 44 | Bulgaria v Mexico | Borislav MIKHAILOV (Bul) | Orphanage in Sofia |
| 45 | Italy v Spain | Roberto BAGGIO (Ita) | Aid for children in Rwanda |
| 46 | Brazil v Holland | BRANCO (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |
| 47 | Bulgaria v Germany | Hristo STOICHKOV (Bul) | Orphanage in Sofia |
| 48 | Sweden v Romania | Thomas RAVELLI (Swe) | Save the Children |
| 49 | Italy v Bulgaria | Roberto BAGGIO (Ita) | Aid for children in Rwanda |
| 50 | Brazil v Sweden | ROMARIO (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |
| 51 | Sweden v Bulgaria | Henrik LARSSON (Swe) | Save the Children |
| 52 | Brazil v Italy | Claudio TAFFAREL (Bra) | Campaign against hunger in Brazil |

# MILLER,

## *Brazilian football's father*

The father . . . Charles Miller, front row, circled.

**WHEN 20-year-old Charles Miller arrived home in his native Sao Paulo late in 1894, after 10 years of education in England, he discovered that football was virtually unknown.**

But he was able to write in his old school's magazine a decade later: "You will be surprised to learn that football is the game here. We have no less than 60 or 70 clubs in Sao Paulo city alone . . . we always get two or three thousand for a league match."

Later he tells his readers: "No less than 2,000 footballs have been sold here within the last 12 months; nearly every village has a club now."

Which sounds a little more like the Brazil we all know and love.

By the time Miller had died, a distinguished businessman and arts patron, at the age of 79 in 1953, he had long been regarded as the father of Brazilian football, and Brazil, if not yet THE football nation, were very much a football nation.

Miller, born in Brazil of British parents, worked for the Sao Paulo Railway Company, when he set about encouraging the employees of other British-owned firms to start playing the game.

Eventually the exclusive Sao Paulo Athletic Club, then mainly concerned with cricket, took up the new sport, and in December 1901, along with the Swiss-educated Antonio Casimiro da Costa, Miller initiated Brazil's first football championship, the Liga Paulista de Futebol.

He captained the SPAC team who won the first five-team league championship in 1902, and was top scorer with 10 goals. He also led their successful defence of the title a year later.

He was no stranger to glory; his school, Banister Court, had a fearsome reputation in sporting circles and in football and cricket were reckoned tough competition for any club side in the Southampton area.

In a contemporary school magazine he was described as an inside-left. "Our best forward: wonderfully quick dribbler and brilliant shot: might work harder: scores great goals."

And earlier, in a match report, " . . . Miller made a magnificent run half the length of the pitch, finishing up with a goal."

"Nipper", as he was known to the local public because of his diminutive build, had played for the Hampshire FA against the celebrated Corinthians, and had caught the eye of the ambitious Southampton St Mary's *(above)*, now Southampton FC, who by then were signing professionals.

He played for them a number of times in friendlies — which dominated the fixture list before the advent of the Southern League — and in a regional cup competition, as well as playing cricket for various clubs and the MCC.

In 1990, Sao Paulo's English-language *Village Voice* reminisced, " . . . he won fame for his dribbling skills. He developed the trick of kicking the ball with his heel, and thus this move became known in Portugese as a 'Charlie', later corrupted to 'chaleira', the Portugese for kettle."

A hint, perhaps — given Brazil's unsurpassed reputation for flamboyance — that "Nipper" Miller was not only responsible for the establishment of the beautiful game there but had a lasting influence on the way it is approached.

Miller died after spending part of his life as acting Vice-Consul at the British Embassy in Sao Paulo. He had married a concert pianist, Helena Rudge, and they had one daughter. Sadly his death came five years before Brazil won the World Cup for the first time . . . but his legacy is not forgotten.

***DAVE JUSON WITH GARY CHALK***

## FLAMENGO
### *the favourites*

FLAMENGO of Rio start the new Brazilian season as favourites to wrest the title of South America's best side from Sao Paulo, but they know it won't be easy.

"The start of every season is an interrogation, usually with 10 to 15 clubs in contention, but since Brazil won the World Cup this will be a season of joy for us," explains the club president, Alexandre Futado.

Nothing has been left to chance in Flamengo's rigorous pre-season schedule.

Having competed in and won the Malaysian International Tournament against Bayern Munich, Leeds United, Dundee United and the Australian Under-21 side, the squad played two extremely competitive matches against Scotland's Celtic in Glasgow.

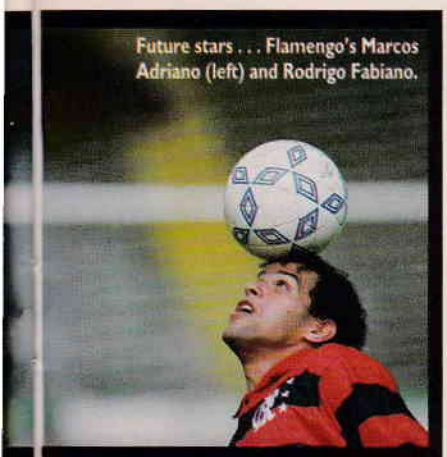
But what motivated the side who, during the last two decades have reared over 80 Brazilian internationals — including Zico, Junior and Bebeto — to come and play against European opposition when Brazil are the dominant footballing force in the world?

"The hunger to learn is the answer," says Futado.

"The World Cup team were clearly influenced by European methods and used many players from the top leagues such as Germany, Italy and Spain.

"We always believe there is something to learn from those we compete against. The teams we have played will give us a competitive edge for the coming season."

Certainly the Brazilians had few problems in defeating Bayern Munich 3-1, but found their 2-1 victory over Leeds



Future stars . . . Flamengo's Marcos Adriano (left) and Rodrigo Fabiano.

harder to come by. Flamengo discovered the English club to be "muy competitivo," and are working to add to that competitive streak.

According to the general manager, Isaias Tinoco, "we learned a great deal in that game."

This hard-won knowledge will return to Rio with Tinoco, famous throughout South America for the Flamengo talent school which handles the

development of around 3,000 youngsters every year.

This incredible throughput of talent accounts for the array of stars in Flamengo's colours over the years, and for the Brazilian saying "The Flamengo club is a factory".

This season promises the further emergence of Adriano *(above)* to challenge goalkeeper Gilmar, centre-back Rogeria, who, at 23, has played almost 300 matches, and the brilliant Marqhuinos.

Above all, Flamengo want to avenge the Supercup Final defeat, they suffered against Sao Paulo, losing on penalties following a 4-4 draw.

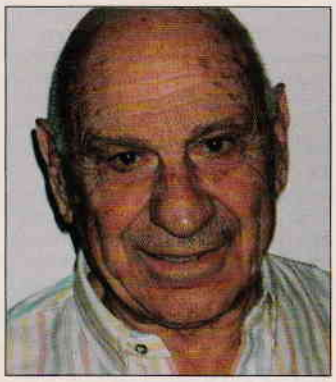
"It was a fantastic Final for football, but for Flamengo only the best is good enough," says Futado. "This season we must win."

*GRAHAM HUNTER*

ERIC WEIL TALKS TO THE LAST PLAYER LEFT FROM THE 1930 WORLD CUP FINAL

# THE SURVIVOR

## *I should not have played, says Varallo*



**THE sole survivor of the first World Cup Final, in 1930, is still sprightly at 84, and still working.**

He is Francisco Varallo *(above)*, who was 19 and the youngest player in the Argentinian team when they lost 4-2 to Uruguay in Montevideo.

Varallo still lives in his native La Plata, about 60 kilometres from Buenos Aires, in the house he bought for himself and his parents out of his first big pay cheque from football — a signing-on fee when he joined Boca Juniors from Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata. And that was 63 years ago.

"In our last group match against Chile, we won 3-1, we were celebrating when a Chilean came up from behind and kicked me on the leg," he says. "That put me out of the semi-final against the US, and I was still not fully fit on the day of the final.

"They tried me out in the morning by making me kick a ball against a wall. I had received so many telegrams from fans at home, and I just wanted to play, I didn't feel anything, but I didn't kick too hard. So they put me in the team

"During the first half, when we were leading 2-1, I received a pass and shot at goal with all my strength. If it had gone in it would probably finished off the Uruguayans.

"But the effort hurt my injured leg again and I could hardly play in the second half. I had paid the penalty for being young. A more intelligent player would not have played but I was too enthusiastic and eager."

Varallo — "Pancho" to his friends — would be a striker in today's soccer language. Then, as part of a five-man forward line, his commitment was to score.

"If I did not do so I felt I had failed," he says. "I used to be ashamed to leave the changing room until everybody had left."

That did not often happen. Varallo still holds the all-time scoring record for Boca Juniors, with 181 goals in nine seasons.

"I would shoot hard at goal whenever I got near. When I received a pass near goal I would turn quickly and shoot . . . often without looking up. Of course I had some incredible misses. The other players would shout at me to lift my head first. But I did get quite a few goals, didn't I?"

Varallo does not think much of today's soccer tactics and the way forwards "fiddle around" instead of shooting. He never goes to matches now. But then a lot has changed.

"We didn't prepare for the World Cup like they do today. We only had two or three practice games in Buenos Aires before going to Montevideo. When we got there it was like being thrown into a battle field.

"The Uruguayans knew we were their strongest rivals and they were very hostile to us. We wilted under the pressure."

At the end the hostile climate continued. Argentinian officials blamed the Uruguayan fans, police and ref for the defeat and broke off soccer relations with the FA for five years.

At that time Argentinian football was still officially amateur — professionalism was declared a year later 1931 — but the players were given 800 pesos each (about $12,000 today). That was the first real money Varallo had made out of the game.

Some of his World Cup team-mates got lucrative contracts from Italian clubs and Varallo was tempted with an offer of 30,000 pesos, which was an enormous sum in those days.

"My father always had an eye for money, but he urged me not to go," he said. "It would have broken my mother's heart."

Varallo, however, had to leave La Plata for a few years. Fans there, angered at his leaving local club Gimnasia y Esgrima for Boca Juniors, stoned his house and harassed him and his family.

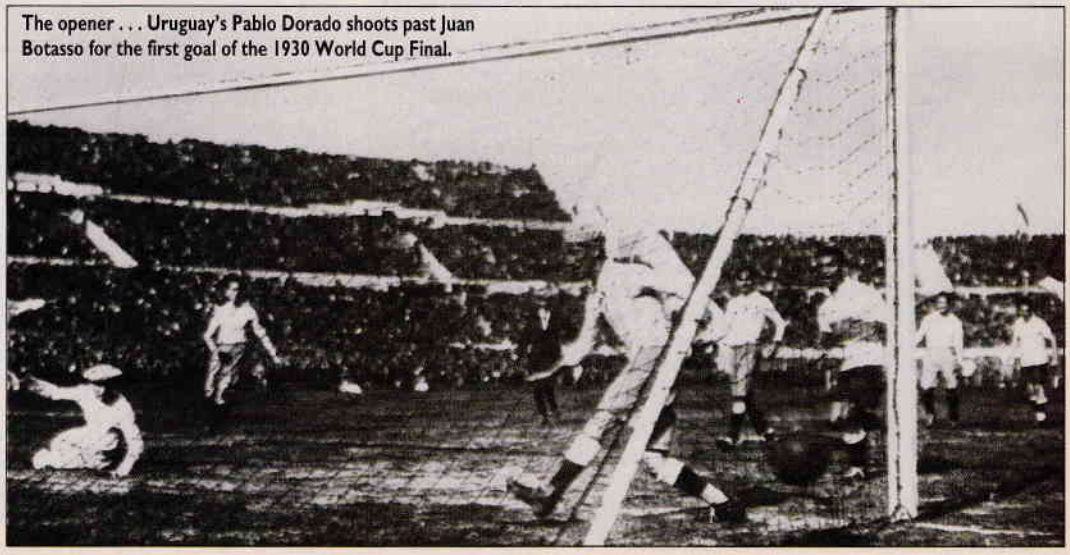
His career was cut short in 1939, when he was only 29, because of cartilage problems.

In the 1950s Gimnasia officials convinced him to go back as coach and although he helped the club to avoid relegation one season, he did not do as well in the next and was soon out . . . without collecting a cent.

He admits he did not have the character to be a coach, but he liked helping kids, being a fully-fledged physical training instructor.

Today he is still active, driving his car and running a lottery and soccer pools agency in the front room of his house with his wife, Clotilde.

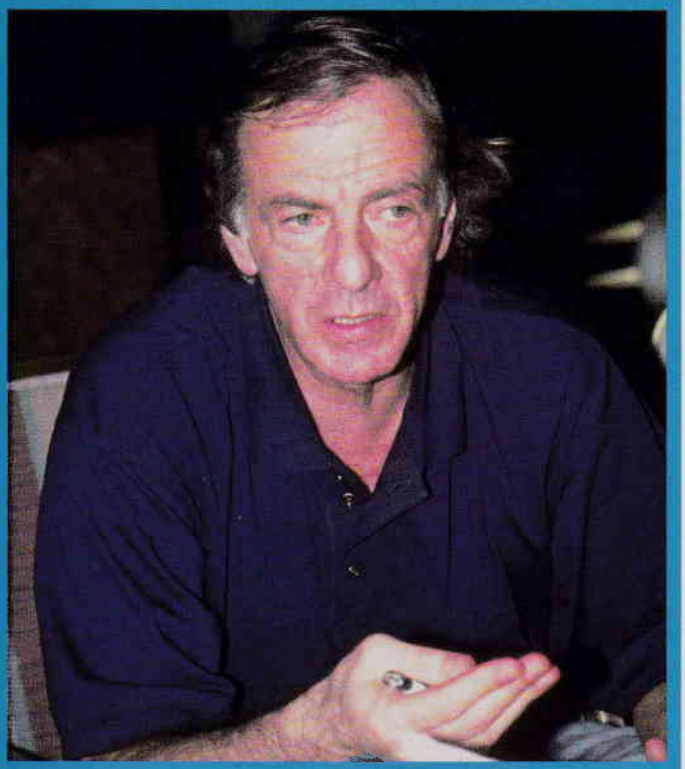
But that injured knee swells up when he walks a lot, and he had to give up his hobby — bowls — a few years ago.



The opener . . . Uruguay's Pablo Dorado shoots past Juan Botasso for the first goal of the 1930 World Cup Final.

Argentina

# River's rise as Boca slump



THE National A Division's closing tournament went into a two-month recess for the World Cup with five games left to play.

Independiente and Huracan were sharing the lead, but six other teams were within two points of them.

They included River Plate, coached by their former player, Daniel Passarella, who seems certain to be the next national team coach after Alfio Basile.

River Plate lost their first three games but were unbeaten in their next 10 and were looked upon as favourites to take the closing championship, to add to their opening title.

Their great rivals, Boca Juniors, slumped after a good start, picking up only two points from their last four games. The prospects for coach Cesar Menotti *(above)* do not look too good.

In a low-scoring championship — 2.15 goals per game — River Plate scored most (19) and conceded fewest (7) in 13 games. Their bright youngster, Hernan Crespo, was also League top scorer with eight.

Racing Club drew five successive home games 0-0 before beating Velez Sarsfield 1-0.

Velez, Argentina's only representatives in the quarter-finals of the Libertadores Cup, were surprisingly next to bottom.

In a close anti-relegation fight, Newell's Old Boys received a welcome lift when the lawsuit between Talleres Cordoba and the Argentinian FA was finally settled.

Last season Talleres took the FA to court over the suspension of several of their players, and fielded them. Now the clubs they beat with suspended players get the points — which made no difference to the last championship, but affected relegation, where average points over three seasons are counted.

The fight against hooligans was stepped up after the killing of two River Plate fans by Boca Juniors supporters early in May.

Some of the Boca hooligans are still on the run — including their notorious leader, Jose Barrita — while others are on trial.

Uruguay

## Carrying on after a killing

**THE clash between Uruguay's perennial big rivals, Penarol and Nacional of Montevideo — won 2-1 by the former — produced fighting between rival supporters during which Walter Posadas, only 16, was stabbed to death.**

The Uruguayan Football Association immediately suspended the championship until the matter was cleared up.

But two weeks later nobody had been charged and they decided to continue the tournament to avoid further financial losses to the clubs.

Newly-promoted Basanez, unbeaten in their first nine games, continued to make the running in the First Division opening championship.

With 10 games played they shared the lead with Penarol and Defensor Sporting while Nacional were a point behind.

For Nacional, however, this was not good enough and they parted company with their Argentinian coach, Eduardo Manera.

Bolivia

## What a rally!

**JORGE WILSTERMAN, of Cochabamba, won the season's fist title in Bolivia by scoring four goals in the last 30 minutes to beat Independiente Petrolero of Sucre 4-3 in a play-off after being three down.**

**The clubs had won their respective groups to qualify for semi-finals and then each won one leg of the final. Both qualify for the CONMEBOL Cup later in the year.**

**Most of this championship was played without national squad players, and Bolivia's top clubs did not even make the semi-finals. Last year's champions, The Strongest, had three men in the World Cup squad, and Bolivar had six.**

Venezuela

CARACAS FC, one of the newer clubs in the Venezuelan League, won the First Division title for the second time in three years.

Mexico

## Big money in the market

MEXICO's annual draft — known as the meat market and strongly criticised by players and press — took place with 103 players changing hands for $20 million between the 20 Mexican First Division clubs.

No national team squad players were included in the 461 up for offer.

The moves included those of Brazilian Ceculio de los Santos from America to Universidad de Nuevo Leon, Uruguayan Roberto Siboldi from Craz Azul to Pueba, Brazilian Tita from Leon to Puebla, and Chilean Ruben Martinez from Santos to Tampico.

The costliest transfer, however, was that of Mexican Daniel Guzman from Santos to Guadalajara for $1.5 million.

Other recent moves, outside the draft, to Mexican clubs included those of Uruguayan Hugo Guerra from Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata (Argentina) to Toluca, and Chilean international Juan Carreno from Everton of Chile to UNAM.

Chile

**SANTIAGO rivals Universidad Catolica — with newly-acquired Argentinian internationals Nestor Gorosito *(right)* and Alberto Acosta showing up well — and Universidad were joint First Division leaders in Chile.**

**Both had dropped only one point in their first seven games.**

**Champions Colo Colo, the third big Santiago team, where coach Ignacio Prieto has been put in charge, were in the lower half of the table.**

## Colombia

# Still in turmoil

**THE effects of the World Cup tragedy are still being felt in Colombia, and will be felt for a long time to come.**

Even in a country so accustomed to lawlessness and violence, the killing of Andres Escobar brought a wave of revulsion in its wake.

That awful event, and its aftermath, have left soccer in crisis.

No matter how high the rewards, players and officials must question whether playing, refereeing or administering the game is now worth the risk involved.

Several of the World Cup team went into hiding on their return from the US — hardly surprising in view of Escobar's murder and the threats flying around, real or imagined.

Several of the squad were likely to have little international football left anyway.

But recruiting top-class successors to players such as Carlos Valderrama *(below)*, now 32, seems almost impossible in the current climate.

Colombian coach Francisco Maturana had to be talked into continuing during the tournament, after the threats began.

He and his assistant, Hernan Dario Gomez, could hardly wait to get to Spain and take up work with Atletico Madrid. After what happened in the States, even one of the least stable jobs in European soccer is infinitely preferable.

One other link with the past was broken when much-travelled Sergio "Checho" Angulo decided to retire because of injury. Angulo, 34, had been the country's top scorer, with 171 League goals.

Nacional of Medellin had a five-point lead at the end of the championship's second stage, followed by Caldas and Millonarios. In view of all that has happened lately, that news seems of little importance.

● **IN HONDURAS,** Real Espana won the title for the seventh time by winning both the regular championship and the final round, so that no play-off was necessary.

● IN EL SALVADOR, **Alianza beat FAS 2-1 in a play-off after both had shared top place in the four-team final round. This ended the four-year reign of Luis Angel Firpo, third in the final round.**

● **IN COSTA RICA,** Saprissa became champions after beating Alajuelense 3-2 on aggregate in a play-off. Saprissa won the final round to force the decider after "Alaj" had won the regular championship.

*ERIC WEIL*

### ARGENTINA
**National A Division**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Independiente | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 17 |
| Huracan | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 17 |
| River Plate | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 7 | 16 |
| Rosario Central | 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 16 |
| Banfield | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 9 | 16 |
| Belgrano Cordoba | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 16 |
| San Lorenzo | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 15 |
| Platense | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 16 | 15 |
| La Plata | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| Racing Club | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 14 |
| Boca Juniors | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 15 | 13 |
| Argentinos Juniors | 13 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 13 |
| Newell's Old Boys | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 12 | 13 |
| Lanus | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 20 | 11 |
| FC Oeste | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 10 |
| Estudiantes | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 1- |
| Dep. Espanol | 13 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 10 |
| Tiro Salta | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 9 |
| Velez Sarsfield | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 8 |
| Dep. Mandiyu | 13 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 7 |

*Bottom relegation points averages (last three seasons — bottom two relegated):* Argentinos Juniors & Newell's Old Boys 0.915; Mandiyu 0.870; Estudiantes 0.842; Gimnasia y Tiro 0.781.

### URUGUAY
**First Division — *opening tournament***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basanez | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 14 |
| Penarol | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 9 | 14 |
| Defensor Sporting | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 14 |
| Nacional | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 13 | 13 |
| Cerro | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| River Plate | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 10 |
| Wanderers | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 10 |
| Rampla Juniors | 11 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 9 |
| Central Espanol | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 8 |
| Progreso | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 14 | 8 |
| Danubio | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| Liverpool | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 7 |
| Bella Vista | 10 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 5 |

### BRAZIL
**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
**Sao Paulo State League — *1st Division (final)***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palmeiras | 30 | 20 | 7 | 3 | 63 | 22 | 47 |
| Sao Paulo | 30 | 16 | 9 | 5 | 66 | 38 | 41 |
| Corinthians | 30 | 16 | 9 | 5 | 60 | 34 | 41 |
| Santos | 30 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 37 | 34 | 34 |
| Novorizontino | 30 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 35 | 37 | 29 |
| America | 28 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 28 | 27 | 28 |
| Unia Sao Joao | 30 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 40 | 40 | 28 |
| Rio Branco | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 35 | 37 | 28 |
| Portuguesa | 30 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 40 | 50 | 28 |
| Guarani | 30 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 47 | 46 | 27 |
| Ponte Preta | 30 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 37 | 44 | 26 |
| Mogi Mirim | 29 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 34 | 42 | 26 |
| Ferroviaria | 30 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 50 | 26 |
| Bragantino | 29 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 25 | 39 | 25 |
| Santo Andre | 30 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 27 | 42 | 23 |
| Ituano | 30 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 21 | 46 | 19 |

**Rio de Janeiro (Guanabara State) League — *final round (final)***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vasco da Gama* | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| Flamengo | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| Fluminense* | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 7 |
| Botafogo | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 1 |

** One bonus point each for winning regular season group and one extra for Vasco da Gama for getting most points overall.*

### CHILE
**First Division**

***After 7 games:*** 1) Universidad de Chile, Universidad Catolica 13pts; 3. O'Higgins 10; 4) Deportes Temuco 9; 5) Everton, Osorno 8; 7) Union Espanola, Antofagasta 7; 9) Atacama, Colo Colo, Cobresal, Coquimbo 6; 13) Cobreloa, Rangers 4; 15) Palestino 3; 16) La Serena 2.

### BOLIVIA
**National Championship *(regular championship — final)***

***Group A:*** 1) Jorge Wilsterman, Real Santa Cruz 15 points; 3) Blooming 14; 4) Bolivar 13; 5) Destroyers 11; 6) Ciclon 2.

***Group B:*** 1) Independiente Petrolero 17; 2) San Jose 15; 3) Oriente Petrolero, The Strongest 14; 5) Guabira 11; 6) Matalsan 3.

*Top two of each group qualify for semi-final — Jorge Wilsterman won title.*

### ECUADOR
**First Division**

1) Emelec, Espoli 22 pts; 3) Nacional 20; 4) Dep. Quito, Aucas 18; 6) Liga Dep. Universitaria, Delfin 14: 8) Universidad Catolica, Green Cross 12; 10) Cuenca 11; 11) Valdez, Barcelona 10.

### PERU
**First Division**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sporting Cristal* | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 5 | 18 |
| Dep. Municipal | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 11 | 16 |
| Ciclista Lima | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 17 | 13 |
| Universitario | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 12 |
| Alianza Lima | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 12 |
| Melgar | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Sport Boys | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| Leon de Huanuco | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| San Agustin | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 20 | 10 |
| Aurich Canana | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 9 |
| Dep. Sipesa | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 9 |
| Union Minas | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 9 |
| Carlos Mannucci | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Alianza Sullana | 11 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 22 | 8 |
| Cienciano | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 5 |
| Defensor Lima | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 4 |

** = 2 bonus points for winning pre-season tournament.*

### PARAGUAY
**First Division**

***After 12 games:*** 1) Cerro Porteno 20 pts; 2) Olimpia, Sport Colombia 18; 4) Sporting Luquenco, Cerro Cora 17; 6) At. Colegiales 15; 7) Presidente Hayes, Guarani 14; 9) Libertad, 12 de Octubre 12; 11) Humaita, Nacional 11; 13) River Plate, Trinidense 9; 15) Sol de America, Boqueron Este 8; 17) Cerro Porteno (Este), Silvio Pettirossi 7; 19) Guarani (Oviedo) 5; 20) 8 de Diciembre 4.

### COLOMBIA
**First Division — *closing championship***

**Overall standings *(top 8 qualify for final round):*** 1) Nacional 35 pts; 2) Caldas 30; 3) Millonarios, America 29; 5) Dep. Cali, At. Junior, Envigado, Independiente Medellin 28; 9) Cucuta 26; 10) Independiente Santa Fe 25; 11) Quindio, Huila 24; 13) Union Magdalena, Pereira 22; 15) Bucaramansa 20; 16) Tulua 18.

### HONDURAS
**First Division — *final round (final)***

1) Real Espana 5 pts; 2) Motagua 4; 3) Vida 3 *(after 4 games).*

### EL SALVADOR
**First Division *(final round — final)***

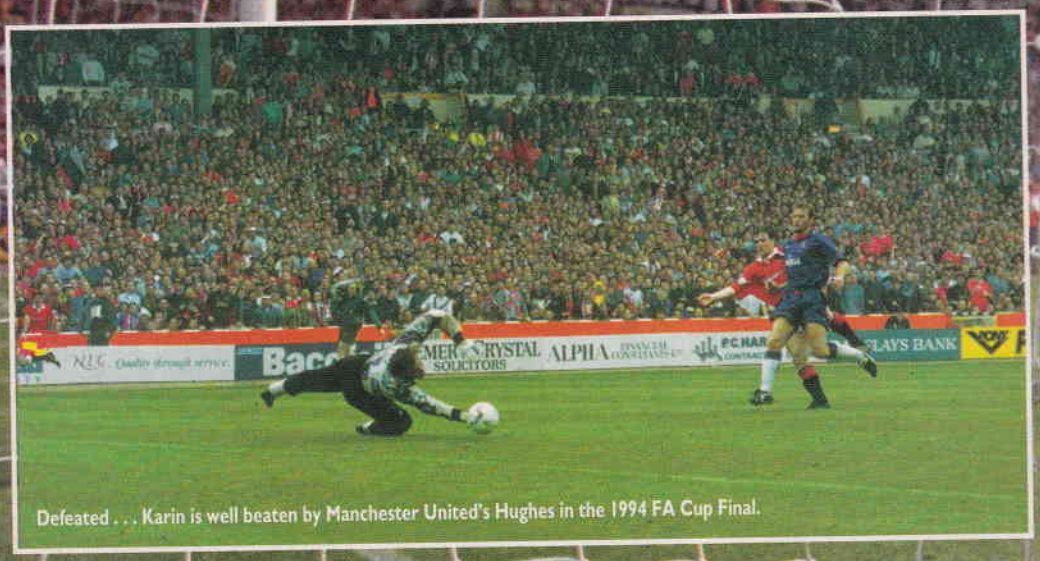
***After 6 games:*** 1) Alianza, FAS 9 pts; 3) Luis A. Firpo 6; 4) Tiburones 0. *(Alianza beat FAS 2-1 in title playoff)*

### VENEZUELA
**First Division — *final***

***After 30 games:*** 1) Caracas FC 43 pts; 2) Trujillanos 40; 3) Minerven 39; 4) Tachira 35; 5) Mineros, Italia, Estudiantes 32; 8) Llaneros, Maritimo, El Vigia 29; 11) Universidad de los Andes, Monagas 28; 13) Maracaibo 26; 14) Valencia 25; 15) Zamora 24; 16) Anzoategui 12.

# Keeping on

## Southall and Kharin have a lot to prove




Defeated . . . Karin is well beaten by Manchester United's Hughes in the 1994 FA Cup Final.

Dejected . . . a forlorn Southall after Everton's 1989 FA Cup Final defeat by Liverpool.

**FEW PLAYERS enter the new English season with as much to prove as goalkeepers Neville Southall and Dimitri Kharin.**

Southall, 36 this month, is aiming to help Everton back some way towards the heights they achieved in the 1980s. Kharin, almost exactly 10 years younger, is desperate to show there are no ill-effects from the FA Cup Final and the World Cup, where he conceded far too many goals for a man of his ability and reputation.

At one point in Southall's career he could claim to be the best keeper in Europe, if not even further beyond. He gained two League title medals and one for the FA Cup, was on the losing side in two other FA finals and one League Cup Final, and helped his club to win the Cup-winners Cup in 1985, when he was chosen Footballer of the Year.

The ban on English clubs which came at the same time, ironically following the Heysel riot involving Everton's greatest rivals, Liverpool, stopped him and the rest of his splendid outfit from taking their rightful place in the European Cup, and heralded a gradual decline.

Loss of form on the field and managerial upheavals off it reached such a stage that right to the end of last season, Everton were in danger of relegation, for the first time in 40 years.

Their remarkable recovery in the last moments of the last match of the last day brought them the win that kept their place, saved millions of pounds of otherwise lost revenue, and gave Southall a chance to show that he is still good for further service.

He has gone from council labourer, hod carrier and dustman to his present position as all-time record-holder of the Welsh national appearance record, which he achieved earlier this year when he passed the total of 73 achieved by Peter Nicholas.

Southall was something of a late entrant to League soccer — 21 when he joined Bury — but Everton have no cause to regret the fact that he became Howard Kendall's first signing, in 1981. If all Kendall's captures had been so good, Everton would not have suffered the indignities of the recent past.

True, there have been downs among the ups. Southall was farmed out on loan to Port Vale for a spell, after conceding five goals to Liverpool in one match — four to his international colleague Ian Rush, the man he calls the greatest striker in the game.

There have been clashes with referees, early baths, and rows with the club bosses, including the bizarre occasion on the first day of 1990-91, when he stormed out of manager Colin Harvey's half-time talk and sat, back against a goalpost, until the others joined him for the second half.

His relationship with the fans is sometimes less than 100 per cent, too: remember the banner saying "Once a binman always a binman"?

But for all the sparks generated by clashes of his iron will with those of others, Southall has been a great servant to club and country. Above all, he has been true to himself, with strenuous training routines, immense attention to detail, and the discipline to keep his hefty frame in good order.

No player starts a game looking worse than Southall, perspiring and dishevelled after his prolonged work-out. He looks as though the match is about to finish, not about to start.

There is little top-flight time left for Southall. There have been rumours that he will not hold off young Jason Kearton for much longer, even that he might be saying goodbye to Goodison — although he is due for a testimonial next season and he wants to finish his career there, preferably while still first choice.

As a keeper, and as a character, he will take a lot of replacing.

Chelsea fans are now as fortunate as Everton's have been, through having Kharin on call.

Greybeards at Stamford Bridge can remember "Tiger" Khomich, who played at Stamford Bridge for Moscow Dynamo during their short but sensational tour just after World War Two. Kharin, with his remarkable agility — brought about by specialised training methods at a sports academy — is a worthy successor.

He made his debut for Moscow Torpedo at 17, later joined Dynamo, helped Russia to win the 1988 Olympic Games soccer title, and then moved to CSKA when unable to regain his club place after a long spell out through injury.

CSKA bought him in an emergency, after Mikhail Yeremin was killed in a road accident on the day after the club won the Soviet Cup. Kharin took his chance so well that he helped CSKA to win the League title and regained his national place for the 1990 European Championship, where he was outstanding.

In December 1992 he opted to join Chelsea, at a fee of a mere £200,000. Since then he has became an even better keeper, as well as a big favourite with the supporters.

Kharin can take much of the credit for the club's surprise run to last season's FA Cup Final, but the big day was a major disaster for the team and for Kharin in particular.

Not through any fault of his, but because he is now in the almanacs as the man who shares the record for the most goals conceded in a Wembley Cup Final. Ironically, he hardly had a shot to stop!

Two penalties by Eric Cantona put Manchester two up after a goalless first half. A defensive slip left Kharin helpless to prevent the third, from Mark Hughes, and a rampant raid through a non-existent defence gave him even less chance of averting the fourth, from Brian McClair.

Kharin shared manager Glenn Hoddle's rueful admission that "The third goal was the first chance United had" — then went off to the World Cup full of hope.

He had stayed loyal when others were refusing to play under the Russian national coach, his old CSKA Moscow boss, Pavel Sadyrin.

Whatever the arguments for and against, Kharin wisely realised that World Cups do not occur very often in the average player's career: he wanted the chance, and took it.

Unfortunately, as at Wembley, Kharin was too often left unprotected. Two defeats preceded the remarkable 6-1 win over Cameroon, which came too late to make a difference.

So back to London he went, to reflect on four of the biggest games of his life, and the 10 goals he had conceded — Manchester United (4), Brazil (2), Sweden (3) and Cameroon (1).

Not his fault, but he is in the record books to stay. Hopefully, there will be other, happier records in times to come. Maybe even this season.

*DAVID PROLE*

## UNITED STATES

# Wembley here we come

**THE United States Soccer Federation have finally accomplished what they have been trying to do for several years now: secure a prestige game for the national team at Wembley.**

This time, they didn't have to plead, or even ask. The English came with an invitation, presumably based on the performances of the US during the World Cup. September 7 is the date.

"Playing at Wembley is an important occasion for us," says the USSF's Sunil Gulati, "In addition it's a sort of celebration, bringing the team back together for the first time after the World Cup. For England, there's an additional incentive, revenge for that 2-0 defeat in Foxboro last year."

How many of the World Cup team will be available? Tab Ramos, still recovering from the injury he suffered when Brazil's Leonardo elbowed him in the face, is definitely out. So too is defender Fernando Clavijo, also injured.

The remaining 20 World Cup players are available, and the US party will consist of 18 of them. But nobody wants to talk about the availability of goalkeeper Tony Meola.

He caused considerable surprise — and disappointment — when he announced as soon as the World Cup was over that he was quitting soccer to join a gridiron team, the New York Jets, as a place kicker.

It seems highly unlikely that the Jets — right at the beginning of their own season — would release Meola to play at Wembley.

Which opens up the position for any one of the USA's three England-based keepers: Jurgen Sommer (Luton Town), Brad Friedel (Newcastle United) . . . and the man many believe should have been the USA's starting goalkeeper during the World Cup, Kasey Keller of Millwall.

*PAUL GARDNER*

## CANADA

# Three home, five away

**THE only professional soccer league operating in North America, APSL, is now into its schedule for 1994.**

APSL should not be confused with the league planned to begin in the United States in 1995.

The 1990 merger of the Western Soccer League and the American Soccer League, brought about the creation of APSL, now operating with five US teams and three in Canada.

The American teams are Los Angeles Salsa, Colorado Foxes, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Houston Force and Seattle Sounders. The Canadian teams are Vancouver 86ers, Montreal Impact and Toronto Rockets.

In an unprecedented move one APSL club, LA Salsa, have accepted an invitation to play in the Mexican First Division for 1994-95.

Although Canada failed to qualify for the World Cup, the spin-off from being located next door to the US proved most beneficial.

Canada staged a virtual mini World Cup of its own, playing Morocco, Brazil, Germany, Spain and Holland before those teams moved south. In addition Switzerland met Bolivia in Montreal.

The Canadians drew 1-1 with Morocco and Brazil before losing to Germany and Spain 2-0 and Holland 3-0.

Despite the hectic 12-day schedule coach Bobby Lenarduzzi's players gave an excellent account of themselves and provided the World Cup contenders with ideal preparation.

The game against Brazil in Edmonton drew a crowd of 51,936, the fourth largest for a soccer game in Canada and the biggest to see Canada play at home. The three largest attendances were all set at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

*COLIN JOSE*

Enjoy Coca-Cola WORLD RANKING FIFA

# BRAZIL ON TOP . . .

## but Bulgaria make biggest strides

WITH no big surprises, other than Bulgaria's run to the semi-finals of the World Cup, the top slots in the latest FIFA/Coca-Cola Ranking are a duplication of the World Cup classification — Brazil in front, followed by Italy and Sweden.

Brazil's lead at the top is the biggest since the Ranking was set up in August 1993, partly because the World Cup finals carry the most weight in the computation of the Ranking.

The month's highest climbers are Bulgaria, up 15 places to 14th, after their splendid performances at USA '94. Other World Cup climbers include Sweden (up 7), Belgium (up 7), and Saudi Arabia (up 5).

All the other USA '94 competitors barely held their positions, and some — including Germany, Holland, Spain and Argentina — have slipped down the ladder.

Denmark, in 12th place, remain the highest-placed country not to take part in the 1994 World Cup. Japan deserve a mention. They moved up 14 places to 38th after two friendly victories against Ghana.

***Ranking as of July 21, 1994***

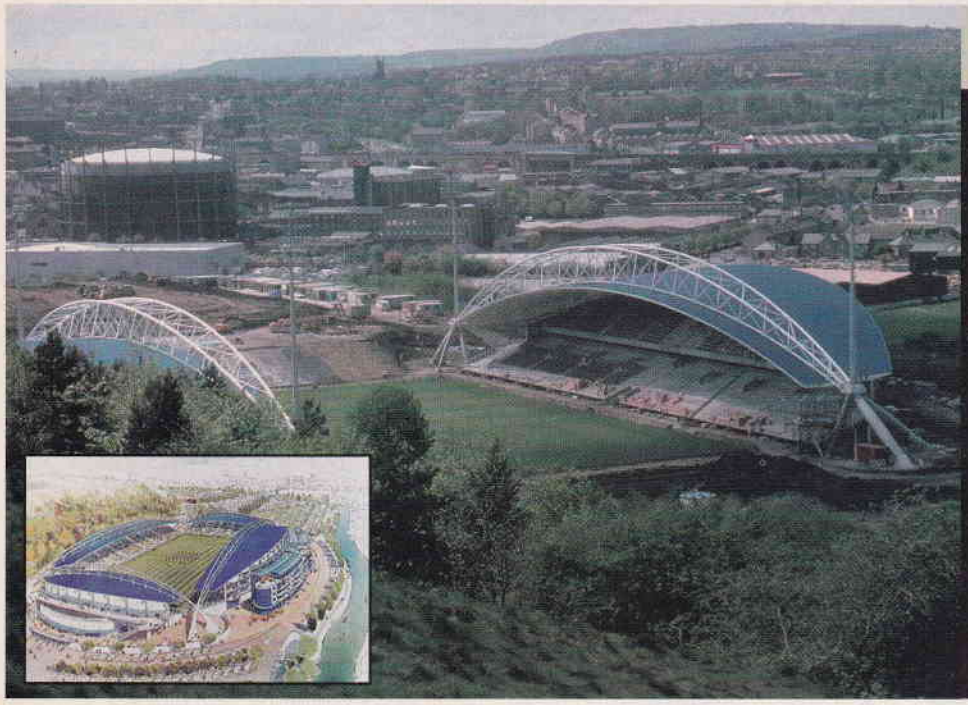
| Rank | Country | Points | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Brazil | 65.21 | +2 |
| 2 | Italy | 62.89 | +2 |
| 3 | Sweden | 61.28 | +7 |
| 4 | Germany | 61.14 | -3 |
| 5 | Holland | 60.97 | -3 |
| 6 | Spain | 59.74 | -1 |
| 7 | Romania | 58.20 | 0 |
| 8 | Norway | 57.52 | -2 |
| 9 | Argentina | 57.46 | -1 |
| 10 | Nigeria | 56.28 | +1 |
| 11 | Switzerland | 55.80 | +1 |
| 12 | Denmark | 54.88 | -3 |
| 13 | Rep. of Ireland | 53.68 | +1 |
| 14 | Bulgaria | 53.40 | +15 |
| 15 | Mexico | 53.10 | +1 |
| 16 | France | 52.82 | -3 |
| 17 | Colombia | 52.72 | 0 |
| 18 | England | 52.15 | -3 |
| 19 | Russia | 52.02 | 0 |
| 20 | Belgium | 50.17 | +7 |
| 21 | Zambia | 48.28 | -1 |
| 22 | USA | 47.68 | +1 |
| 23 | Uruguay | 47.23 | -5 |
| 24 | Ivory Coast | 45.23 | -3 |
| 25 | Portugal | 44.73 | -3 |
| 26 | Egypt | 44.65 | -1 |
| 27 | Cameroon | 44.02 | -3 |
| 28 | Ghana | 43.32 | -2 |
| 29 | Saudi Arabia | 42.93 | +5 |
| 30 | Morocco | 42.71 | -2 |
| 31 | Tunisia | 41.95 | -1 |
| 32 | Poland | 40.60 | 0 |
| 33 | Scotland | 40.18 | 0 |
| 34 | Greece | 39.85 | -3 |
| 35 | Wales | 38.77 | 0 |
| 36 | South Korea | 38.64 | +1 |
| 37 | Austria | 38.39 | -1 |
| 38 | Japan | 37.51 | +14 |
| 39 | Northern Ireland | 36.78 | +2 |
| 40 | Chile | 36.28 | 0 |
| 41 | Bolivia | 35.50 | +2 |
| 42 | Iceland | 35.25 | -4 |
| 43 | Slovakia | 34.97 | +1 |
| 44 | Czech Republic | 34.60 | +1 |
| 45 | Finland | 34.26 | +1 |
| 46 | Ecuador | 34.16 | -7 |
| 47 | Australia | 34.15 | 0 |
| 48 | Algeria | 34.05 | 0 |
| 49 | Zimbabwe | 33.79 | -7 |
| 50 | Mali | 33.21 | -1 |
| 51 | Honduras | 32.37 | -1 |
| 52 | Israel | 31.91 | +1 |
| 53 | Canada | 31.46 | +1 |
| 54 | Costa Rica | 31.36 | -3 |
| 55 | Hungary | 31.00 | +1 |
| 56 | Senegal | 30.88 | -1 |
| 57 | Turkey | 30.66 | 0 |
| 58 | Paraguay | 26.69 | +2 |
| 59 | UAE | 26.33 | +3 |
| 60 | Zaire | 26.05 | +3 |
| 61 | Guinea | 26.03 | 0 |
| 62 | China | 24.41 | -3 |
| 63 | Iran | 24.36 | -5 |
| 64 | Gabon | 24.28 | 0 |
| 65 | Sierra Leone | 23.69 | +1 |
| 66 | El Salvador | 23.43 | +2 |
| 67 | Qatar | 23.10 | +2 |
| 68 | Iraq | 22.64 | -3 |
| 69 | Malta | 22.58 | +3 |
| 70 | North Korea | 22.57 | +1 |
| 71 | Cyprus | 22.08 | +2 |
| 72 | Peru | 21.95 | -5 |
| 73 | Kuwait | 21.79 | -1 |
| 74 | South Africa | 21.40 | +2 |
| 75 | Slovenia | 20.90 | +4 |
| 76 | Niger | 20.15 | +5 |
| 77 | Oman | 20.09 | 0 |
| 78 | Yugoslavia | 20.00 | 0 |
| 79 | Ukraine | 19.83 | +4 |
| 80 | Jamaica | 19.34 | -10 |
| 81 | Thailand | 19.05 | -6 |
| 82 | Kenya | 19.02 | 0 |
| 83 | Trinidad & Tobago | 18.97 | +1 |
| 84 | Lithuania | 18.44 | +4 |
| 85 | Malawi | 18.23 | -5 |
| 86 | Latvia | 18.09 | -1 |
| 87 | Singapore | 17.62 | 0 |
| 88 | New Zealand | 17.08 | +2 |
| 89 | Bermuda | 16.80 | 0 |
| 90 | Croatia | 15.61 | +1 |
| 91 | Bahrain | 15.39 | +1 |
| 92 | Surinam | 15.07 | +1 |
| 93 | Malaysia | 15.02 | +2 |
| 94 | Fiji | 14.44 | +3 |
| 95 | Venezuela | 14.33 | -3 |
| 96 | Syria | 13.98 | -10 |
| 97 | Barbados | 13.61 | +1 |
| 98 | Jordan | 13.56 | -2 |
| 99 | Tanzania | 13.37 | 0 |
| 100 | Burkina Faso | 12.99 | +2 |
| 101 | Albania | 12.81 | +3 |
| 102 | Madagascar | 12.68 | +4 |
| 103 | Puerto Rico | 12.49 | +4 |
| 104 | Uganda | 12.16 | -3 |
| 105 | India | 11.94 | 0 |
| 106 | Yemen | 11.82 | -3 |
| 107 | Hong Kong | 11.75 | +2 |
| 108 | Gambia | 11.62 | +2 |
| 109 | Mozambique | 11.57 | -1 |
| 110 | Congo | 11.23 | +3 |
| 111 | Estonia | 11.13 | +1 |
| 112 | Burundi | 10.86 | -1 |
| 113 | Swaziland | 10.81 | -13 |
| 114 | Ethiopia | 10.54 | 0 |
| 115 | Guinea-Bissau | 10.11 | +1 |
| 116 | Luxembourg | 9.97 | +1 |
| 117 | Macedonia | 9.79 | +1 |
| 118 | Lebanon | 9.57 | +1 |
| 119 | Myanmar | 9.35 | -4 |
| 120 | Antigua | 9.19 | |
| 121 | Haiti | 8.99 | |
| 122 | Togo | 8.83 | |
| 123 | Angola | 8.78 | |
| 124 | Georgia | 8.31 | |
| 125 | Indonesia | 8.26 | |
| 126 | Bangladesh | 8.03 | |
| 127 | Faroe Islands | 8.02 | |
| 128 | Sri Lanka | 7.65 | |
| 129 | Nepal | 7.63 | |
| 130 | San Marino | 7.24 | |
| 131 | Grenada | 6.85 | |
| 132 | Sudan | 6.78 | |
| 133 | St Vincent/Grenadines | 6.56 | |
| 134 | Panama | 6.47 | |
| 135 | Guatemala | 6.44 | |
| 136 | Liberia | 6.10 | |
| 137 | Benin | 5.98 | |
| 138 | Dutch Antiles | 5.71 | |
| 139 | Tahiti | 4.84 | |
| 140 | Mauritius | 4.77 | |
| 141 | Cayman Islands | 4.35 | |
| 142 | Byelorussia | 4.33 | |
| 143 | Vietnam | 4.21 | |
| 144 | Lesotho | 3.84 | |
| 145 | Guyana | 3.80 | |
| 146 | Sri Lucia | 3.64 | |
| 147 | Pakistan | 3.50 | |
| 148 | Botswana | 3.22 | |
| 149 | Moldova | 3.14 | |
| 150 | Mauritania | 3.02 | |
| 151 | Liechtenstein | 2.21 | |
| 152 | Maldives | 2.04 | |
| 153 | Cape Verde Islands | 1.94 | |
| 154 | Laos | 1.85 | |
| 155 | Solomon Islands | 1.77 | |
| 156 | Dominican Rep. | 1.34 | |
| 157 | Libya | 1.15 | |
| 158 | Brunei | 1.02 | |
| 159 | Armenia | 0.97 | |
| 160 | Nicaragua | 0.65 | |
| 161 | Namibia | 0.39 | |
| 162 | Central African Rep. | 0.19 | |
| 163 | Seychelles | 0.18 | |
| 164 | Cuba | 0.15 | |
| 165 | Chinese Taipei | 0.14 | |
| 166 | Equatorial Guinea | 0.10 | |
| 167 | Philippines | 0.08 | |
| 168 | Vanuatu | 0.04 | |
| 169 | Aruba | 0.03 | |
| 170 | Azerbaijan | 0.00 | |
| | Chad | 0.00 | |
| | Macao | 0.00 | |
| | St Kitts & Nevis | 0.00 | |

❒ *Countries inactive since 1988 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table*

❒ *Change indicates movement since month's (June) Ranking.*

# A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe



## KIRKLEES

**❒ Kirklees? Where? What? Why? Well, believe it or not, the Yorkshire district of Kirklees, better known as Huddersfield — usual associations: dour, grey, blunt — is about to unveil one of Europe's most exciting new football grounds.**

The **KIRKLEES STADIUM** design is based on computerised calculations of the ideal viewing distances and sightlines, resulting in an oval plan, with four shell-like stands eventually holding up to 25,000, all close to the pitch. But it is not just the concept. Giant steel banana-shaped arches and curving sky-blue roofs lend a refreshingly futuristic air, yet remain within a scale (and cost) appropriate to the two joint tenants: Huddersfield Town (triple Championship winners in the 1920s, now in the Second Division) and Huddersfield Rugby League Club. On the same site will be a conference centre, golf-range, restaurants and offices, total cost around £16 million. Two stands holding 15,800 are due to open in August, a third in December, and a fourth maybe in mid-1995, incorporating a cinema and ski-slope. Who'd have believed it — a new breed of football ground, born in Huddersfield. They'll be serving Bovril in the San Siro next.

## KIEV

**Name:** Republican Stadium (formerly Red Stadium and Central Stadium). Not to be confused with the Dynamo Stadium, also in Kiev.
**Capacity:** 100,000 all-seated (all-benched actually).
**Opened:** August 1923, completely rebuilt 1936-41 (opening day turned out to be the day the Nazis invaded), then extra tier added in late 60s.
**Location:** A mile or so west of the great River Dnepr, on one of Kiev's main city centre streets, with its own metro stop.

Of all the former Soviet Republics, the Ukraine would appear to have the least gloomy prospects, socially and economically. Other than Russia, it also has possibly the best national stadium, whose resident team, Kiev Dynamo, remain the dominant footballing force in the region. Tidy and uniform within, the two-tiered open stadium has some quirky details outside, such as neo-classical ticket booths and totem-like floodlight towers. Having been hugely improved for the 1980 Olympics, it could do with a 1990s facelift — individual seats to replace the bright yellow benches, and a roof would help. Even so, its location is superb, access is hard to fault, and it could easily cope with a UEFA final. Definitely does not deserve to become a backwater.

*World Soccer rating:* 7 (out of 10)

## KOREA

❒ Despite the political posturing which has recently dogged relations between the West and North Korea's late Communist hardline leader, Kim il-Sung, South Koreans are still talking positively about a joint North-South bid for the 2002 World Cup.

South Korea — the Korean Republic — has the 70,000-capacity **CHAMSIL STADIUM**, in Seoul, built for the 1988 Olympic Games. A cavernous, two-tiered bowl, its chief attraction is an undulating concrete roof (an echo of the Parc des Princes) which dips seductively down at each end but leaves about 10,000 spectators on each side exposed to the sun. The other drawback is the usual one found at athletics stadia built on a circular plan; that is, over-extended viewing distances for football. Otherwise this is a first-class venue, part of a larger Olympic sports complex which puts most of Europe's Olympic sites to shame. (South Korea has five other modern-ish, 30,000-capacity stadia, also used in the 1988 Olympics.) Up north, across the infamous 38th parallel, the Democratic People's Republic may not have Madonna or, allegedly, much to eat, but they do have the 150,000-capacity **KIM IL-SUNG STADIUM** (well what did you expect it to be called?) in the capital, Pyongyang. Designed principally as a venue for political pageants in celebration of the "Great Leader" (more of those vast, garish tableaus made up of coloured squares), the stadium not surprisingly resembles Moscow's Lenin Stadium (even though Kim had always leaned more towards Stalin). Its charmless, outdated architecture in the 1950s mould still looks austere, even though the stadium was modernised in 1988. But size before beauty. Along with the Maracana in Rio, this is the world's largest stadium. Now what was that line about bread and circuses?

## LIVERPOOL

**Name:** Anfield Road.
**Capacity:** 40,141 all-seated when new Kop finished in late 1994.
**Opened:** 1884, as home to . . . Everton (whose departure in 1892 led to the formation of Liverpool FC).
**Location:** on the south side of Stanley Park, which divides the Reds from the Blues at Goodison Park, less than a mile away. Anfield is a district of Liverpool, a couple of miles east of the Mersey and north east of the once-swinging city centre (ferry, tunnel, Beatles museum etc etc.)

● To football fans all over the world, the name Anfield is synonymous with The Kop, probably the most famous old terrace in Britain, and recently the subject of numerous books, documentaries and a tide of nostalgia. But, now the Kop has gone — demolished this summer — will the wit and spirit of its regulars also die? Probably not, since it managed to survive the Souness era. In fact, last year's completion of the new Centenary Stand, plus the construction of the new Kop — overall cost some £16 million — have guaranteed Anfield's selection as a venue for Euro '96, ahead of Everton's now outdated Goodison Park (a reversal of the choice for the 1966 World Cup). In turn, this could lead to a new double-decker being built at the Anfield Road End. Four years ago plans were dangled in front of both clubs for them to share a brand new 67,000-capacity Merseyside stadium near Aintree. Looking at Anfield now it could be that Everton will regret they didn't snap up that offer after all.

***World Soccer rating:*** 8 (out of 10)

## LISBON

**Name:** Estadio da Luz — the Stadium of Light.
**Capacity:** officially 120,000, though the gate for the 1991 World Youth Championship Final, Portugal v Brazil, was 127,000.
**Opened:** December 1954, expanded in 1960 and 1985.
**Location:** along a dusty freeway a.k.a. the Avenida General Norton de Matos, four miles west of the airport, four miles north of central Lisbon.

● L is for Lisbon and the Stadium of Light — a romantic name which has nothing to do with the stadium's white-washed expanses but the name of the locality — Luz. Home to Benfica, this deceptively compact, three-tiered sunken bowl is actually Europe's largest football venue and the third largest in the world (see last month's ***WORLD SOCCER***). In the joyful absence of a track, the oval tiers come right up to the corner flags, while the rearmost seats (or rather concrete benches) are still not too far away — almost as good a design for football as the quadric plan used at Nou Camp, Azteca and others. Surrounding and even underneath the stands are sports facilities galore, indoor and outdoor, for Benfica's 90,000 or more socios (members). But apart from an impressive museum and two new video boards, not much else could be described as sophisticated. Still, on a warm Lisbon night this bowl of Light takes on an intoxicating air. Did I hear someone say "Magic?"

***World Soccer rating:*** 9 (out of 10)

❒ Two miles east down the highway from Luz is the **Estadio Jose Alvalade**, home of Sporting, holding a mere 70,000 in a green and white striped, sun-baked bowl. Still not satisfied? Carry on down the road another 10 kms and you reach the **Estadio Nacional**, a barely-developed classical stadium hidden amongst woods, with stone benches for 60,000. Celtic fans will remember it fondly for staging the 1967 Champions Cup Final. Sadly, Celtic have more chance of reaching another final than the Estadio Nacional has of getting back on to the international circuit.

## LIMA

❒ Approached from one of Lima's splendid arterial boulevards, Peru's 45,000-capacity **Estadio Nacional** appears as one of South America's least modern, yet most dignified national stadia, particularly with its 1930s-style observation tower dominating the north curve. Occasional home to one of the city's top clubs, Deportivo Municipal, and the country's national sporting administration, it is otherwise the standard bowl-around-a-track, with two slight, concrete cantilevered roofs — typical of the 1950s — shading the upper tiers on either side. But for all its dignity, Lima's stadium will forever be associated with the events of May 24, 1964, when riots erupted after the referee disallowed a late Peruvian goal v Argentina. The police responded with tear gas and bullets, thus sparking off the world's worst football disaster in which 318 fans died and over 1,000 were injured in a stampede for the exits. On a lighter note, as long as you like rice and beans, this is one of the few national stadia where you can order a hot meal to be brought to your seat.

## LYONS & LENS

❒ Named among the 11 French cities bidding for the 1998 World Cup, Lyons and Lens both have strong credentials, having been venues for the 1984 European Championship. Lyons' venerable **Stade de Gerland** (home to Olympique Lyon) is to be remodelled into a 43,000 all-seater with new roofs at each end. The English-style **Stade Felix Bollaert**, home to Racing Club de Lens, needs only to have its terraces converted and two corners filled in, thus reducing the capacity from 51,098 to 40,116.

## KATOWICE

**Name:** Stadion Slaski.
**Capacity:** 80,000 officially (100,000 if you squeeze up or stand at the back).
**Opened:** July 22, 1956.
**Location:** In Silesia, on the borders of Katowice and Chorzow, in the middle of a vast — some might say bleak — park.

● Many Poles apparently miss the security and certainty of the old Communist regime. They won't miss its architectural crimes against the people. The Slaski is one of Europe's least inspiring national stadia — a Socialist superbowl relieved only by the odd presence of a red and white striped office block behind the VIP section. The severe, stone-clad tunnel looks as if a steam train is about to emerge, while cracking wooden benches, no cover, and in recent internationals an unpleasant atmosphere, combine to make this a dinosaur among stadia. But then, you should see the other national stadium in Warsaw. Katowice is the Rose Bowl in comparison.

***World Soccer rating:*** 4 (out of 10)

# DIARY

**JUNE 10 to JULY 17** — World Cup news as reported in *WORLD SOCCER'S* August edition.

## MON 18 JULY

**MALAYSIA:** Mehmet Scholl scores three goals as Bayern Munich beat a Selangor State Select 4-0 in an international tournament at the new Shah Alam Stadium. Markus Schupp scored the other goal for the German champions.

**SWEDEN:** More than 100,000 fans welcome Sweden's national team home in Stockholm after their third-place finish at the World Cup.

**UNITED STATES:** The New York Jets gridiron team sign up US World Cup goalkeeper Tony Meola . . . FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter confirms in Los Angeles that sudden death will be used for matches which run into extra time at the 1998 World Cup finals . . . USSF president Alan Rothenberg says he intends bringing the sport up to the same level as American football, basketball and baseball in the US.

## TUE 19 JULY

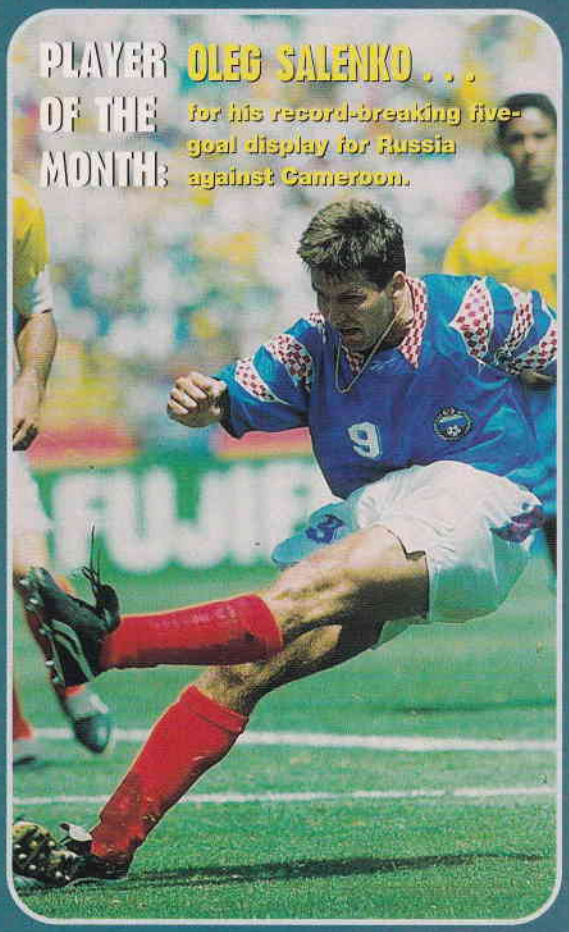
**BULGARIA:** Around 50,000 fans welcome Bulgaria's World Cup heroes back from Los Angeles. State President Zhelyu Zhelev meets the team at Sofia airport with a red carpet and full military honours normally reserved for visiting heads of state. He says: "Never has Bulgaria scored such an achievement and such international acknowledgement."

**ENGLAND:** World Cup referee Philip Don says he believes FIFA's new directives on the laws of the game can only help English football. He says: "The new interpretations contributed to some very fast, end to end games and I'm sure that the commitment and passion which are the hallmarks of the game in this country can be maintained under them." . . . Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson buys Bolivian World Cup striker Jaime Moreno from Blooming. . . Chelsea sell Ireland forward Tony Cascarino to disgraced former European champions Marseille.

**ITALY:** Arrigo Sacchi flies in to jeers from disappointed fans in Rome though the players, many looking dejected, received a warm welcome.

**MOROCCO:** Morocco's parliament demands a wholesale renewal of the Sports Ministry and Football Association after the World Cup first-round elimination.

**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA president Lennart Johansson calls for an exemplary punishment on Diego Maradona after his dope-test failure at the World Cup. Johansson also says that he will press for Europe to be given five of the extra eight places available at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.




## WED 20 JULY

**GERMANY:** World Cup team captain Lothar Matthaus says he may quit because of his disappointment at the lack of trust invested in him by coach Berti Vogts . . . Saarbrucken sign US World Cup forward Joe-Max Moore.

**SWITZERLAND:** The preliminary draw for the European club competitions produces the following seeded teams for the Champions League starting in September: *Group One:* Manchester United, Barcelona; *Group Two:* Bayern Munich, Spartak Moscow; *Group Three:* Benfica, Anderlecht; *Group Four:* Milan, Ajax.

## THU 21 MAY

**ITALY:** Dino Zoff, formerly Lazio coach, takes over as club president.

**SCOTLAND:** Rangers urge supporters not to travel to Greece for the Champions Cup preliminary round tie with AEK Athens on August 10 for the fear of even one single incident causing serious disciplinary fall-out.

## FRI 22 MAY

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** Dukla Prague will not compete in any national championship next season because of financial difficulties.

**PORTUGAL:** Benfica's international midfielder Rui Costa agrees terms of a transfer to Fiorentina in a £5million deal.

## SAT 23 JULY

**BELGIUM:** Standard Liege loan Brazilian defender Andre Cruz to Napoli for one year.

**GERMANY:** Koln buy striker Bruno Labbadia from champions Bayern Munich for £1million. Labbadia says: "It's hard to leave Munich but with Papin, Sutter and Adolfo Valencia around I couldn't see any prospects for myself. Coach Trapattoni told me my chances of selection were 50-50, and that's not enough for me."

## SUN 24 JULY

**BRAZIL:** Holders Sao Paulo beat neighbours Palmeiras 2-1 (and 2-1 on aggregate) in the second leg of the second round of the Libertadores Cup and qualify for the quarter-finals.

**GREECE:** Cameroon World Cup striker David Embe signs for Larissa.

## MON 25 JULY

**BRAZIL:** The Brazilian World Cup-winning squad are revealed to have been allowed to bring home 17 tons of excess baggage, mainly consisting of electrical goods, without being asked to pay the estimated $1million of customs duty.

**ITALY:** Promoted Padova claim to have won a three-way contest with England's Coventry and Germany's Bochum to sign US World Cup defender Alexi Lalas.

**SPAIN:** Romanian World Cup star Gheorghe Hagi signs a two-year contract with Barcelona after an overnight hitch over tax arrange-

## TUE 26 JULY

**GERMANY:** Matthias Sammer appeals for World Cup captain Lothar Matthaus to remain in the national side because his experience would be crucial to the new players who must come into the team now for the European Championship.

**ITALY:** Juventus defender Andrea Fortunato, who has leukemia, receives a bone marrow transplant from his sister. Fortunato, 22, was diagnosed as having the disease in May after completing his first season in Serie A . . . Tomas Skuhravy's proposed transfer from Genoa to Leeds collapses over the player's personal demands — which means Genoa have neither the money nor the import place clear to maintain their attempt to sign Jurgen Klinsmann from Monaco.

**SWITZERLAND:** Hungarian international midfielder Lajos Detari signs a one-year contract with Neuchatel Xamax. Detari, 31, with 57 caps, joins Xamax from Genoa, after earlier spells with Eintracht Frankfurt and Olympiakos . . . Sion sell Switzerland's World Cup full-back Marc Hottiger to Newcastle United for £600,000. Hottiger, capped 45 times, rejects a German offer to sign a three-year contract.

**WALES:** Three Welsh clubs who have been forced to play their home games in exile win a High Court fight to go home. Newport AFC, Caernarvon Town and Colwyn Bay, who have each been playing their home matches in England for the past two years, can return to Wales, after the FA of Wales backed down in a restraint of trade case.

## WED 27 JULY

**DENMARK:** Brian Laudrup makes his debut for Rangers, setting up an equalising goal for Mark Hateley in the 19th minute as the Scottish champions draw 1-1 away to Aalborg in a friendly.

**JAPAN:** Kazuyoshi Miura, the biggest star in the J.League, flies from Tokyo to take up a one-year contract in Italy with Genoa.

**ENGLAND:** The FA announces that World Cup-holders Brazil will join Japan and England in a six-team tournament in May next year which will be a rehearsal for the European Championship finals in 1996 . . . Tottenham buy Romanian World Cup forward Ilie Dumitrescu ***(right)*** from Steaua Bucharest for £2.6million.

**SPAIN:** Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu signs a three-year contract with promoted Espanol who agree a £2million fee with European champions Milan.

## THU 28 JULY

**FRANCE:** Bordeaux beat Nice 1-0 on the opening day of the new French season, just 11 days after the World Cup Final.

**JAPAN:** Brazilian defender Leonardo arrives in Japan to succeed Zico as star player at Kashima Antlers.

**RUSSIA:** Pavel Sadyrin resigns as national coach after the World Cup flop. His replacement is Oleg Romantsev, coach of the champions Moscow Spartak. Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian Federation, says Sadyrin's resignation had been accepted unanimously. Koloskov said it had been a mistake negotiating a partial settlement of the player-power rebellion.

**TURKEY:** Veteran striker Tanju Colak, a former European Golden Boot winner, flees the country after a warrant is issued for his arrest to serve a 22-month jail sentence for car smuggling.

**ZAMBIA:** Ian Porterfield resigns as national manager of Zambia to take up a £250,000 contract in Saudi Arabia with Al Ittihad. Porterfield, who had five months of his contract in Zambia to run, says: "I cannot turn this offer down because I have to think of my family."

### TEAM OF THE MONTH:

### BRAZIL . . .

**for winning the World Cup**

## FRI 29 JULY

**ENGLAND:** Tottenham complete a major transfer coup by signing German striker Jurgen Klinsmann from Monaco for £2million . . . Blackburn sign Australian international Robbie Slater, former Oceania Footballer of the Year, from French team Lens on a two-year contract . . . Leeds buy South African defender Lucas Radebe from Kaizer Chiefs, and striker Philomen Masinga from Mamelodi Sundowns . . . John Cartwright quits as Charlton youth manager to take up — for a third time — a contract with Kuwait Sporting Club.

**UNITED STATES:** Anson Dorrance, who led the United States to the inaugural FIFA Women's World Championship title in 1991, announces his impending resignation after next month's qualifying tournament for the 1995 finals. He is replaced by assistant Tony DiCicco.

## SAT 30 JULY

**ISRAEL:** Former Soviet international defender Oleg Kuznetsov joins Israeli champions Maccabi Haifa on a free transfer from Rangers of Glasgow.

## SUN 31 JULY

**BRAZIL:** Romario defies orders to return to Barcelona to keep a promise to childhood friends by playing on a local rough pitch in the Vila da Penha shanty town where he was brought up. Romario says: "I wanted to show my friends that success has not gone to my head. I'll never forget my friends and where I came from. I tried to get in touch with the Barcelona directors to tell them I'm still worn out after the World Cup and need an extra two weeks' rest. I'm sure they'll understand."

**SPAIN:** Real Zaragoza's Argentinian striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider is reprimanded by his club after he and two team-mates are involved in a bar-room scuffle during the early hours in the northern town of Biescas.

## MON 1 AUG

**DENMARK:** AGF Aarhus bring central defender Torben Piecknik home from Liverpool.

**GREECE:** Coach Alketas Panagoulias writes to the Federation offering his resignation in the wake of the World Cup flop.

**HUNGARY:** Kalman Meszoly, once implicated in match-fixing allegations, is appointed national manager for the third time in his career. Meszoly left Vasas after the club were relegated last season. He served as national manager from 1980 to 1983 and from 1990 to September 1991, after which he took up a coaching position in Saudi Arabia.

**ITALY:** Internazionale complete the purchase of World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca from Sampdoria in an exchange deal which sends former national team goalkeeper Walter Zenga ***(below)*** and central defender Riccardo Ferri moving in the opposite direction . . . Brazilian World Cup central defender Marcio Santos joins Fiorentina from France's Bordeaux in a £2million transfer deal.

# DIARY

## WHAT'S ON

● **WEDNESDAY**, September 7 will be the busiest ever night of European international football, with 18 European Championship ties scheduled, plus two prestige friendly matches.

The first big night of Euro '96 qualifiers takes place across the continent, from Iceland to Georgia, with, remember, three points available for a win.

In the two friendly matches, England — who qualify automatically as hosts for Euro '96 — entertain the US at Wembley, while Germany travel to Russia.

### *AUGUST*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9**
**UEFA Cup:** preliminary round, 1st leg.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10**
**Champions Cup:** preliminary round, 1st leg.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11**
**Cup-winners Cup:** preliminary round, 1st leg.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**
**English Charity Shield:** Manchester United v Blackburn Rovers (Wembley).

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**
**FA Premiership begins.**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23**
**UEFA Cup:** preliminary round, 2nd leg.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24**
**Champions Cup:** preliminary round, 2nd leg.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**
**Cup-winners Cup:** preliminary round, 2nd leg.

### *SEPTEMBER*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**
**European Championship, Group 1:** Israel v Poland. **Group 4:** Estonia v Croatia.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**
**European Championship, Group 5:** Czech Rep v Malta.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**
**European Championship, Group 1:** Slovakia v France, Romania v Azerbaijan. **Group 2:** Cyprus v Spain, Macedonia v Denmark, Belgium v Armenia. **Group 3:** Iceland v Sweden, Hungary v Turkey. **Group 4:** Slovenia v Italy, Ukraine v Lithuania. **Group 5:** Luxembourg v Holland, Norway v Byelorussia. **Group 6:** Liechtenstein v Austria, N. Ireland v Portugal, Latvia v Rep. Ireland. **Group 7:** Wales v Albania, Georgia v Moldova. **Group 8:** Finland v Scotland, Faroe Islands v Greece. **Internationals:** England v United States (Wembley), Russia v Germany.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**
**UEFA Cup:** 1st round, 1st leg.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**
**Champions League:** 1st matchday.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**
**Cup-winners Cup:** 1st round, 1st leg.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
**UEFA Cup:** 1st round, 2nd leg.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
**Champions League:** 2nd matchday.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**
**Cup-winners Cup:** 1st round, 2nd leg.

## TELEVISION

### SKY SPORTS

**REGULAR PROGRAMMES — SOCCER'S ENTERTAINERS:** Tues 2, Wed 3, Thurs 4, Fri 5, Mon 8, Tues 9 Weds 10 and Thurs 11 at 09.00. Mon 1, Tues 2, Wed 3, Thurs 4, Fri 5, Tues 9 and Wed 10 at 17.30. Mon 1, Tues 2, Wed 3, Thurs 4, Fri 5, Mon 8, Tues 9, Wed 10, Thurs 11 at 23.00.
**SOCCER NEWS:** Tues 23, Wed 24, Thurs 25, Fri 26, Tues 30, Wed 31 at 07.00 and 08.15. Tues 23, Wed 24, Thurs 25 Tues 30 and Wed 31 at 18.00. Tues 23, Wed 24, Tues 30 and Wed 31 at 22.00.

**SATURDAY 13 AUGUST**
**09.00**.....FOOTBALL PREVIEW SPECIAL

**SUNDAY 14 AUGUST**
**15.00**.....THE FA CHARITY SHIELD — LIVE
**01.00**.....CHARITY SHIELD

**MONDAY 15 AUGUST**
**13.00**.....CHARITY SHIELD
**19.00**.....COUNTDOWN TO THE NEW SEASON
**24.30**.....COUNTDOWN TO THE NEW SEASON

**TUESDAY 16 AUGUST**
**13.00**.....COUNTDOWN TO THE NEW SEASON
**22.00**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

**WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST**
**12.30**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
**17.30**.....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE

**THURSDAY 18 AUGUST**
**08.00**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

**FRIDAY 19 AUGUST**
**08.00**.....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
**18.00**.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
**21.30**.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM
**22.30**.....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
**23.00**.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

**SATURDAY 20 AUGUST**
**16.45**.....SOCCER SCORELINES

**SUNDAY 21 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....GOALS ON SUNDAY
**15.00**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY
**19.00**.....THE POOLS PANEL
**22.00**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY
**24.00**.....THE POOLS PANEL

**MONDAY 22 AUGUST**
**07.00**.....THE POOLS PANEL
**12.30**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY
**14.30**.....THE POOLS PANEL
**18.00**.....SOCCER NEWS
**19.00**.....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
**23.00**.....SOCCER NEWS
**24.00**.....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

**TUESDAY 23 AUGUST**
**12.30**.....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
**21.30**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**
**10.00**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
**15.00**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST**
**23.00**.....SOCCER NEWS

**FRIDAY 26 AUGUST**
**18.00**.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
**21.30**.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM
**22.30**.....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
**23.00**.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

**SATURDAY 27 AUGUST**
**11.00**.....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
**16.45**.....SOCCER SCORELINES

**SUNDAY 28 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....GOALS ON SUNDAY
**15.00**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE
**22.00**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY
**23.30**.....THE POOLS PANEL

**MONDAY 29 AUGUST**
**12.30**.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY
**14.00**.....THE POOLS PANEL
**18.00**.....SOCCER NEWS
**19.00**.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
**23.00**.....SOCCER NEWS

**TUESDAY 30 AUGUST**
**12.30**.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
**22.15**.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

### EUROSPORT TV

**Regular Programmes —** Eurogoals: Monday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August at 22.00. Tuesday 2, 16, 23, 30 at 17.30. Tuesday 16, 23, 30 at 11.00.

**THURSDAY 18 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES
**14.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES
**21.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES

**FRIDAY 19 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES

**SATURDAY 20 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES
**14.00**.....XV FIFA WORLD CUP — Highlights from the final.

**TUESDAY 23 AUGUST**
**22.00**.....EUROPEAN CUPS

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**
**11.00**.....EUROPEAN CUPS

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST**
**12.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES
**21.00**.....EUROPEAN CUPS
**22.30**.....COPA LIBERTADORES

**FRIDAY 26 AUGUST**
**10.30**.....EUROPEAN CUPS

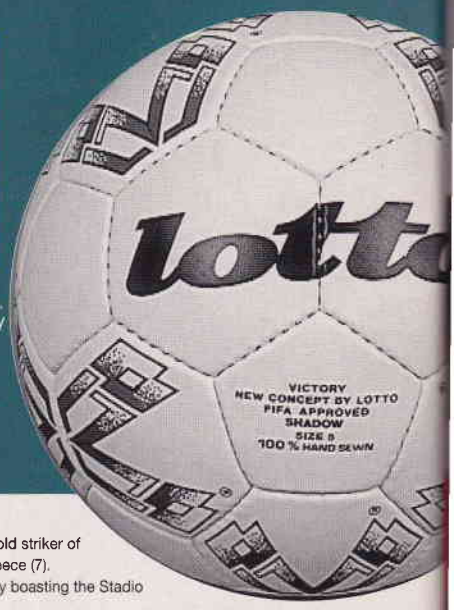
**SATURDAY 27 AUGUST**
**13.00**.....COPA LIBERTADORES


lotto

# WIN

A Lotto Football — for the first correct entry. Fill in this month's crossword and send it, by SEPTEMBER 15, to:

***WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD* (SEPTEMBER), King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.**





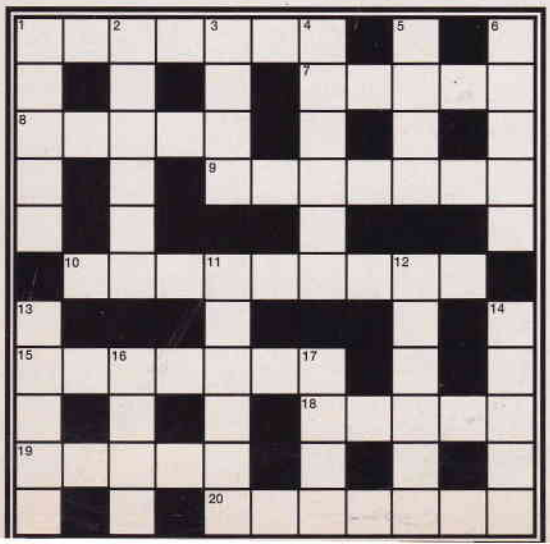
X WORD

Compiled by Christine Ansell

**LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION**

**Across:** 1 Swallows, 7 Stein, 8 Speed, 9 Baron, 10 Blue, 13 Ards, 14 Mussi, 17 Brito, 18 Iroha, 19 Palacios.
**Down:** 1 Sosa, 2 Alexandris, 3 London, 4 Wyss, 5 Madjer, 6 Berlusconi, 11 Talbot, 12 Kubica, 15 Zola, 16 Maas.

**LAST MONTH'S WINNER:**
**DAWN ANDREWS OF SHEFFIELD**



NAME

ADDRESS

**ACROSS**

**1** .....21-year-old striker of OFI Crete and Greece (7).
**7** .....Italian city boasting the Stadio Friuli (5).
**8** .....Switzerland's ex-Lausanne midfielder at Servette (5).
**9** .....J.League club from Kashima (7).
**10**.....Parma's former Brindisi and Padova defender (9).
**15**.....Argentinian managing Tottenham Hotspur (7).
**18**.....World Cup winners in 1934, '38 and '82 (5).
**19**.....Bayern Munich and Belgium keeper of the 1980s (5).
**20**.....Brazil's 1982 and '86 World Cup boss more successful at Sao Paulo (7).

**DOWN**

**1** .....USA's World Cup custodian in 1990 and 1994 (5).
**2** .....Brugge club sharing Belgium's Olympiastadion (6).
**3** .....Sporting Lisbon's ex-Sao Paulo and Famalicao defender (4).
**4** .....Swiss winger in Germany with Nurnberg (6).
**5** .....French club, four times national champions in the 1950s (4).
**6** .....German coaching Liechtenstein's national team (5).
**11**.....Cologne striker in West Germany's 1986 World Cup Final side (6).
**12**.....Czech midfield veteran of Dukla, Atletico Madrid and Werder Bremen (6).
**13**.....Florida port associated with the Rowdies (5).
**14**.....102-cap Pole with Manchester City from 1978 to 1980 (5).
**16**.....Ex-River Plate and Monaco striker recently on target with Yokohama (4).
**17**.....Swiss club from the Tourbillon Stadium (4).

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA report on ASIA's No.1 League

# SANFRECCE'S *triumph o*

**SANFRECCE's victory in the J.League Suntory Series was a triumph of steady effort, solid teamwork and fair play.**

The effort and fair play were anticipated. Sanfrecce had the league's best disciplinary record last year, and maintained that record with only 13 bookings in 22 games.

General manager Kazuo Imanishi, who has done as much as anyone to build the Mazda (now Sanfrecce) style over the past decade, often describes how he gets a lift each time the boys carry out the FIFA Fair Play Please banner before international games.

Imanishi is also the sort of man who refuses to believe in star players, holding that a low-budget team such as Sanfrecce cannot compete with the likes of Verdy in terms of sheer talent.

His ideal is disciplined team play. Imanishi's Mazda invited future national manager Hans Ooft to Japan a decade ago, and Imanishi has since found another fellow spirit in current team manager Stuart Baxter. He too is clear that he wants to contribute to the development of a new Japanese style of football.

But after two solid mid-table finishes last year, (Sanfrecce won nine and lost nine in the second stage), nobody had predicted that they would win a title so soon.

The difference was largely due to the arrival of Ivan Hasek from Strasbourg. His pinpoint finishing was critical in several matches.

Other players, such as centre-forward Takuya Takagi and South Korean international Noh Jung-Yoon, also have grown in stature. So have the defence. The distinctive feature of Sanfrecce's championship was that it was won by a team in the full sense of the word.

The run-up was not all smooth. The two-week break for the Kirin Cup upset Sanfrecce's flow, and they crashed 2-1 at home to lowly Yokohama Marinos at the re-start. Amends were then richly made with a 2-1 victory at arch-rivals Shimizu S Pulse.

The goal that clinched the championship was scored by Pavel Cerny in injury time against Hans Ooft's Jubilo Iwata, with one game to spare. That was just as well, because Sanfrecce fell 1-0 to Gordon Milne's fast-improving Nagoya Grampus Eight in the last match.

But just take a look at the finish by Kashima Antlers. Zico's return sparked a goal rush and a burst of confidence that should carry through to the Nicos Series (second stage).

Zico's final home match, a 4-0 crushing of Bellmare Hiratsuka, was reminiscent of the 5-0 win over Grampus in Kashima's first home J.League match in May last year.

That time, Zico scored two, including one from a masterful free-kick, and Alcindo got a hat-trick. This time, they shared two apiece. And again 41-year-old Zico produced an unstoppable free-kick.

Yutaka Akita's goal in the final match at Jubilo was slotted home after Zico's free-kick hit the bar.

Gary Lineker went on 15 minutes from the end of Grampus Eight's match with Sanfrecce, for his first appearance in 242 days.

On the up . . . Sanfrecce skipper Kazama with the J.League trophy (above).

On the way back . . . Antlers veteran Zico (right).

## LEAO OUT, RIVELINO IN

**EMERSON LEAO's reign at Shimizu S Pulse is over, halfway through his five-year contract.**

**One-time Brazil goalkeeper Leao's replacement is a former team-mate, 48-year-old Roberto Rivelino, who has been coaching in Sao Paulo.**

**Leao led Shimizu to a series of runners-up positions, including two in the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup and just recently in the second Suntory Series.**

**But his straightforward long-ball tactics also became the object of strong criticism.**

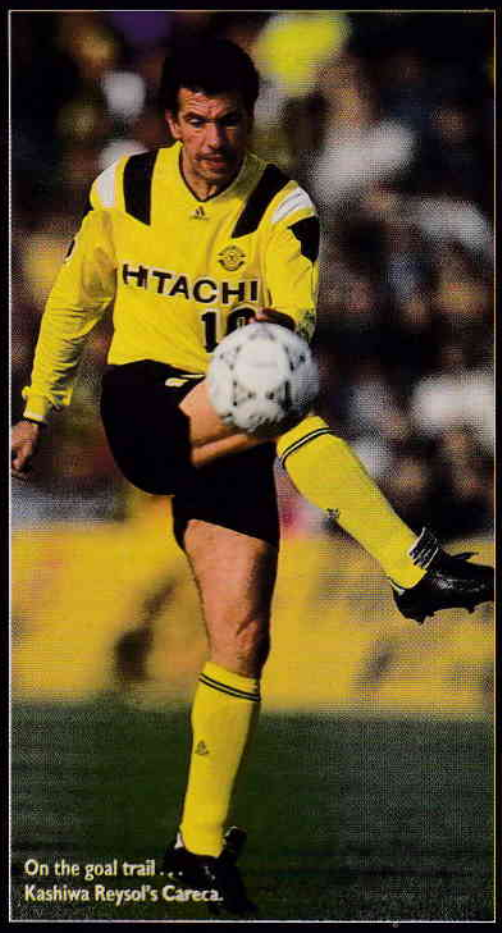
**Outspoken comments at conferences, where he frequently lambasted match officials, also turned some influential people against him. But Leao has perfected his present strategies to such a degree that he will not be an easy act to follow.**

**Rivelino will have to start by undoing things before he can begin to rebuild.**

### *J.LEAGUE SUNTORY SERIES – FINAL TABLE*

| | P | W | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sanfrecce Hiroshima | 22 | 17 | 5 | 44 | 26 |
| Shimizu S Pulse | 22 | 16 | 6 | 41 | 25 |
| Kashima Antlers | 22 | 16 | 6 | 45 | 32 |
| Verdy Kawasaki | 22 | 14 | 8 | 43 | 29 |
| Yokohama Flugels | 22 | 13 | 9 | 36 | 27 |
| JEF United Ichihara | 22 | 10 | 12 | 34 | 45 |
| Jubilo Iwata | 22 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 33 |
| Nagoya Grampus Eight | 22 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 28 |
| Yokohama Marinos | 22 | 8 | 14 | 29 | 35 |
| Gamba Osaka | 22 | 7 | 15 | 37 | 46 |
| Bellmare Hiratsuka | 22 | 7 | 15 | 27 | 54 |
| Urawa Red Diamonds | 22 | 6 | 16 | 26 | 45 |

*teamwork*



On the goal trail . . . Kashiwa Reysol's Careca.

## Falcao's problem

**JAPAN's young national team made a brave but rocky start in this year's Kirin Cup.**

**Falcao's squad showed good individual skill and managed a creditable 1-1 draw with Australia, but the new boys looked a far cry from the well-disciplined outfit who went within a whisker of qualifying for US '94, and crumbled 4-1 against a full-strength France.**

**Falcao selected a team including 20-year-old sensation Takafumi Ogura of Nagoya Grampus Eight. Every player in the squad has skill and can shoot. But there was not much sign of strategy or support. Those will have to come later.**

**Six Japanese won first caps against the Aussies in a starting line-up with an average age of 24.**

**France edged Australia 1-0 in the second match on a waterlogged, rainswept pitch that did not give either team a chance. Eric Cantona headed the winner three minutes before half-time. That set up the decider between Japan and France in Tokyo, which was decided all too quickly.**

**Youri Djorkaeff knocked home a David Ginola cross in the 15th minute, and three minutes later Jean-Pierre Papin put the match beyond Japan's reach.**

**Japan gave away two silly goals in the second half (an own goal by Kurosaki and a bad fumble by Kenui Honnami, which presented Ginola with an easy shot).**

**The one bright spot was Ogura's consolation goal.**

**Falcao said: "Football isn't a game where you can make a team today and get a result tomorrow. It requires time."**

**Unfortunately, the team are not likely to be ready for the Asian Games this autumn, which is when Falcao's contract expires. Falcao is honest that his real goal is 1998. But is time on his side?**

## Cerezo set hot pace

**CEREZO OSAKA — formerly Yanmar Diesel — are setting a hot pace in their bid to become one of the J.League's newest members.**

Two teams can have full J.League status next year provided that they finish as the top two of the Japan Football League.

At the halfway stage, Cerezo had won 14 out of 15 matches. The only defeat came on penalties against Careca's team, Kashiwa Reysol.

**JAPAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**
***— Halfway stage***

| | P | W | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cerezo Osaka | 15 | 14 | 1 | 46 | 15 |
| Fujieda Blux | 15 | 13 | 2 | 30 | 16 |
| Kashiwa Reysol | 15 | 12 | 3 | 48 | 16 |
| Kyoto Sanga | 15 | 11 | 4 | 31 | 21 |
| Otsuka Seiyaku | 15 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 22 |
| PJM | 15 | 10 | 5 | 31 | 23 |
| Tokyo Gas | 15 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 22 |
| Toshiba | 15 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 28 |
| Kawasaki Steel | 15 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 23 |
| Honda | 15 | 6 | 9 | 24 | 31 |
| Fujitsu | 15 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 30 |
| Cosmo Oil | 15 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 35 |
| NTT Kanto | 15 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 24 |
| NEC Yamagata | 15 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 31 |
| Kofu Club | 15 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 41 |
| Seino | 15 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 32 |

Although the focus is firmly on the J.League, the Japan Football League also has plenty of stars. Besides Careca, who has scored 15 times already this season, they include Sergio Batista and Pedro Pasculli, both members of the squad who won the World Cup in 1986, now at PHM Futures; and Santiago Ostolaza, former captain of Uruguay, at Kyoto Sanga.

Cerezo Osaka's foreigners are Toninho from Cruzeiro and Marquinhos from Internacional of Porto Alegre.

Cerezo would make fine members of the J.League. A 50,000-capacity stadium is planned for 1996 at their home in Nagai, Osaka, which would be used as a World Cup venue if Japan's bid is successful.

# MIURA MOVES TO ITALY

**VERDY KAWASAKI's top striker, Kazuyoshi Miura, has finally got his wish of playing in Italy's Serie A, joining Genoa on a one-year loan.**

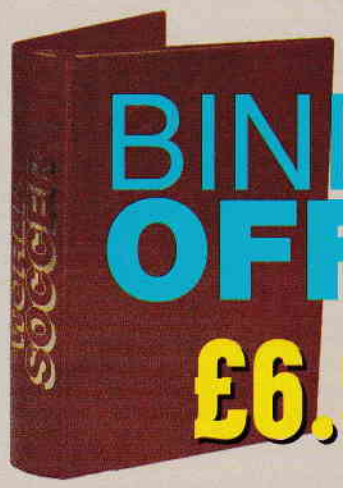
**"I know I must make a big effort", says Kazu, "as a representtive of both Japan and Asia. I hear that the Genoese fans are very excitable, so I know it won't be easy.**

**"But I'd like to be involved in as many goals as possible, either setting them up or scoring them."**

**Yugoslavian midfielder Dragan Stojkovic from Marseille is making the trip in the other direction. Stojkovich, who made an important contribution to Yugoslavia's advance to the World Cup quarter-final in 1990, has joined Nagoya Grampus Eight.**

**Grampus also have signed Dragisa Binic, the former Yugoslav international who visited Tokyo in 1991 with Red Star Belgrade. He has been playing with Apoel Nicosia in Cyprus.**

**JEF United Ichihara have gone into the same market with the signing of Montenegrin midfielder Nenad Maslovar from Red Star Belgrade.**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## ASIAN GAMES

### Saudis favourites for the Games

**WORLD CUP** heroes Saudi Arabia are strong favourites to take the Asian Games football title, even though the competition is being hosted in soccer-crazed Japan.

The Saudis *(above)* made themselves odds-on for the title after surging through to the second round of US '94 by beating Belgium 1-0. They were toppled by Sweden, 3-1.

The team have a relatively comfortable draw, with Hong Kong, Nepal and Kuwait in their group.

Hong Kong's soccer bosses are in a state of panic. "I've already started booking the return tickets for the players after the first round," said Peter Leung, assistant national squad manager.

"We just don't stand a chance against them."

There are 22 teams in the footballing competition of the Asian Games, a regional version of the Olympics, which will be staged in Hiroshima between October 1 and 12.

They include the republics of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, who have not played international matches of any note since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the qualifying stage the teams are divided into five pools, with the top sides and the three second-best nations qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Five stadia will be used — three in Hiroshima City and one each in Onomichi and Miyoshi. The final will be played at the main stadium — the 50,000-capacity Big Arch in Koiki Park.

#### 1994 ASIAN GAMES

***GROUP A:*** Iran, Uzbekistan, Oman, Bahrain, Yemen
***GROUP B:*** Thailand, UAE, Turkmenistan, India, Mongolia
***GROUP C:*** South Korea, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, China
***GROUP D:*** Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Nepal, Kuwait
***GROUP E:*** Japan, Qatar, Brunei, Myanmar

#### ASIAN GAMES — PAST FINALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1951** | India | 1 | Iran 0 |
| **1954** | Taiwan | 5 | South Korea 2 |
| **1958** | Taiwan | 3 | South Korea 2 |
| **1962** | India | 2 | South Korea 1 |
| **1966** | Burma | 1 | Iran 0 |
| **1970*** | Burma | 0 | South Korea 0 |
| **1974** | Iran | 1 | Israel 0 |
| **1978*** | North Korea | 0 | South Korea 0 |
| **1982** | Iraq | 1 | Kuwait 0 |
| **1986** | South Korea | 2 | Saudi Arabia 0 |
| **1990** | Iran | 0 | North Korea 0 |

*Iran won 4-1 on penalties*

** denotes shared title*

## SINGAPORE

### Fandi stays at home

**SINGAPORE's first sporting millionaire, Fandi Ahmad, has turned down an offer to rejoin Dutch team FC Groningen, where he played for a short part of the 1983 season.**

**"There are several other clubs keen on having Fandi next year," said Renze de Vries, Groningen's technical director.**

**"But if Fandi feels that he has to make some contribution to his country I will not stand in the way."**

**Fandi is a player of genuine world class who enthralled Dutch crowds during his short term there when he was only 21.**

**Since returning to play in South-East Asia he has hardly been stretched by the opposition, but he is certainly a lot better off for staying at home.**

**Fandi's millions come from endorsing such World Cup heavyweights as Coca-Cola and Mastercard and a range of local products, as well as a second career as a singer and producer.**

**"It's good to know that Groningen still want me," said Fandi, now 32. "But age has caught up with me".**

**Although Fandi's decision would warm the hearts of Singaporeans, for whom he plays twice weekly as national team captain, for many it illustrates the dilemma of Asian football.**

**How are players going to learn the skills and attitude needed to make them genuine world-beaters if they are unwilling to leave their cosy patches in Asia?**

**"The coaching, competition and system are much better in Europe compared to this part of the world. Fandi is a talented player and could have gone far," said de Vries.**

## SOUTH KOREA

### Koreans promote Byshovets

**ANATOLI BYSHOVETS,** the last coach of a winning Soviet Union football side, is the new South Korea coach. He replaces Kim Ho, who took the team up to and through US '94.

Byshovets *(above)* was Ho's technical adviser during the World Cup, when their inability to score in their draw with Bolivia cost them a place in the last 16.

"We have chosen Byshovets as he did his job pretty well while serving as technical advisor to the World Cup team," said a spokesman for the Korean FA.

Byshovets, a Ukrainian, coached the Soviet Union to a gold medal in the 1988 Olympics football competition.

The appointment of a foreigner to such a high-profile coaching job is of real significance in South Korea, where — unlike Japan and China — foreign players and coaches are rare.

## MALAYSIA

### Red faces at new stadium

**MALAYSIA's** new Shah Alam Stadium opened with a spectacular football tournament that included Bayern Munich, Leeds United, Flamengo and Dundee United playing against one of the country's top state sides, Selangor.

The locals were helped by the inclusion of former Liverpool keeper Bruce Grobbelaar, Eddy Krncevic of Standard Liege, and three Croatian-based players.

Malaysia is one of the latest Asian countries to introduce fully-professional football and the country also hosts the region's governing body, the Asian Football Confederation.

At the time of writing, the tournament was just opened, with Selangor and Dundee United drawing 1-1.

The game was not without it's comic touches. Despite the funding lavished on the stadium — $US200 million — which will be a key venue in the 1998 Commonwealth Games, the match was delayed 47 minutes when officials discovered the centre circle was too small.

## IRAN

### Women in again

**IRANIAN football authorities have passed regulations allowing women to watch football matches as paying spectators for the first time since 1979.**

**For the Islamic regime in Iran this is a considerable step towards bringing their religion-dominated sports philosophy in line with other AFC countries.**

**Reaction was mixed. "If women start flooding stadiums, many moral and Islamic virtues will be disregarded in the future," said the ultra-conservative *Jomhuri Eslami* paper.**

**Sport has always been inextricably linked with religion and politics in Iran. The Shah poured millions of dollars into football during his reign, producing three Asian Cup-winning sides and a World Cup team who drew 1-1 with Scotland in 1978.**

**After the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the authorities banned the game altogether, but the ban proved too hard to enforce in this football-loving country.**

## HONG KONG

### Colony's concern

ONE of Hong Kong's top sports officials fears that the territory will lose its footballing independence once Britain returns the colony to China in 1997, even though

ASIAN FOOTBALL

Official Sponsors – Supporting Asian

China has promised Hong Kong will retain its own sporting identity.

"If we keep our seat in FIFA after 1997 it will mean China having two votes, and I don't think other member countries will accept this," said Timothy Fok, son of the FIFA executive committee member and billionaire businessman Dr Henry Fok.

The issue is a sore one for Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong sportsmen and fans. They feel little affinity with the current Chinese football administration, run and dominated by Mandarin-speaking officials based in Beijing.

Fok said the only way to convince FIFA to continue to treat Hong Kong as separate from China after 1997 was "to host several international tournaments and to participate more in overseas competition."

## AFC NEWS

### President's pleasure

**THE newly-elected president of the Asian Football Confederation says that two strong performances from the Asian teams at US '94 had shown that "Asian football doesn't need to walk with it's head down any more".**

**Sultan Ahmad Shah was commenting on Saudi Arabia, who were 500-1 but won through to the second round, and South Korea, who performed strongly in a tough group that included Germany and Spain.**

**"These two teams have brought great respect and dignity to Asian football through their skills, fitness and determination to succeed," said the Sultan, who was elected at the AFC's Congress in May.**

**He was firmly convinced the teams' performance would boost the AFC position and that FIFA should give Asia two extra places for the expanded 32-team 1998 World Cup.**

**FIFA have made clear that the division of the extra places between the regional confederations would wait until after USA '94, to ensure that it was merit-based.**

## Own goal settles play-off

AL NASR finished third in the Saudi Arabian table but won the four-way play-off for the championship.

They won 1-0 in the semi-final against Al Hilal, who had taken top spot with five points to spare, then beat second-placed Al Riyadh by the same score.

A crowd of 60,000 at the King Fahd Stadium watched the match, which was decided by an own goal from Walid Al-Zheir 15 minutes after half-time.

Al Riyadh had defeated the fourth club, Al Shabab, 3-1 after extra time.

This was the fourth time that Al Shabab, now coached by Frenchman Jean Fernandez, had won the title.

Al Nahda and Ouhod were relegated from the 12-club League and will be replaced by Al Nejemeh and Al Rawda.

**AZAM MAHMOOD**

● **IN LEBANON,** Al Ansar won the championship for the sixth time in a row, losing only twice in their 26 games and finishing seven points clear of Safa.

Al Ikhaa, from the provincial town of Aley, were third, one point further behind Safa, in their first season in Division One.

● **IN SYRIA,** three referees have been banned for two seasons and several matches have been played behind closed gates, following crowd troubles.

## Sponsors make a difference

BIG BUSINESS is taking an interest in China as a market for soccer, with some impressive results.

Various organisations have sponsored visits by foreign teams in recent months, playing matches against various opponents, with generally excellent attendances.

The Shanghai Marlboro Cup, involving nine matches and six teams, earned about £230,000 for the sponsors, and tickets for the meeting of Milan and Vasco Da Gama in Shenzhen ranged from £8 to £77. Even at those prices, astronomic for a low-income country such as this, the supply did not meet the demand.

Very few people can afford to pay such sums for entertainment, but as one of the sponsors says: "Even if only a very, very small part of the Chinese population can pay the price of soccer, that is still a very big market."

Another problem concerns the non-appearance of certain top players who had been advertised as being among those in action. Ruud Gullit and David Platt, for example, could not make the journey with their Sampdoria colleagues for a match against the Chinese national team, and Roberto Mancini played for only three minutes. Hopefully, in future, entrepreneurs and clubs will work out an agreement whereby the billed names do in fact turn up.

Interest in football here is growing daily. Soccer-dominated sports programmes are now favourite TV viewing for millions of people, and the newly-professionalised game is increasing in strength.

The national team, under new coach Qi Wushen, played their part with two notable victories — 4-2 against Sampdoria in Chian and 3-2 against Stuttgart in Germany. Milan, the biggest of the big-name clubs to pay short visits, beat Vasco Da Gama 3-2 and Liaoning 4-1, but then lost 2-1 to Beijing in their third match in five days, at three venues.

The Marlboro Cup involved two Chinese teams, the Olympic squad and Shanghai, plus Dynamo Dresden, Corinthians of Brazil, and Servette, who won the event, beating Dynamo 8-7 on penalties in the final after a 0-0 draw.

In the domestic league, Shanghai led after six matches, with five wins and only one defeat, by newly-promoted Shandong. Dalian were a point behind, Sichuan and Shandong another point further away.

Liaoning, for so long the major club in China, won only once in six attempts and decided on a change of coach, with Yang Yumin being demoted and his assistant, Wang Hongli, taking over. Yang insisted that he was still a coach, although he has been troubled by a heart ailment. We wait to see how the new arrangement works out, but even Wang is not optimistic.

The Shanghai strikers, Fan Zhiyo and Li Xiao, were joint top scorers with six goals. Hu Zhijan of Guangzhou and Nakharov, a Russian who plays for Shanghai, had five each.

**ZHENG MING**

## Politics in the way

**POLITICS played a part in one of Bangladesh's biggest football occasions when a Cup-winning team refused to accept the trophy.**

**Abahani KC had beaten Brothers Union 1-0 to win the Dhaka Metroplis FA Cup for the first time, but the players left the pitch before the traditional ceremony could be held.**

**They said they did so because of poor refereeing and a lack of proper security throughout, but the club later received a letter of congratulations from the Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, which indicated a political motive.**

**Three players had been sent off during the game, and there had been several outbreaks of violence between rival groups of supporters followed by police intervention.**

**Despite the claims against referee Mansoor, he won considerable praise for his handling of the match and seemed unaware of the "unwritten law" that so often protects top Bangladeshi players from punishment.**

**Both semi-finals ended with surprise results. Brothers Union beat the holders and favourites, Dhaka Mohammedans, 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw, and Muktijoddha — fielding virtually an all-international side — lost 2-1 to Abahani.**

## Mori tops poll as Veart moves

**A PIECE of magic from Adelaide City winger Damian Mori provided the 1994 National League Grand Final with its only goal and solitary memorable moment.**

**Mori's brilliant effort in the 58th minute, when he cut in from the left and unleashed a venomous 30-yard drive, was particularly remarkable, coming in such a dreadful match. Yet again, Australian soccer's supposed showpiece proved a let-down.**

**Even so, the City Zebras confirmed they have mastered the art of peaking at exactly the right time and, once more, Melbourne Knights had to be content with second place.**

**Their defeat must have been a sobering experience for 18-year-old striker Mark Viduka, who could have been forgiven for believing senior soccer to be a magic carpet ride. Earlier in the week, he had been presented with accolades for the Players' Player of the Year, the Under-21 Player of the Year and League's top scorer — all gained during his initial full season at first-class level. Against City, though, Viduka was subdued.**

**The South Australians showed off the Championship trophy to their supporters one week later, when touring Sheffield United were beaten 3-0. Carl Veart, one of the scorers, impressed so much that he was immediately signed by United, whose manager, Dave Bassett, admitted that the chance to recruit new talent was one of the tour's major attractions.**

**Several previous deals involving European clubs had aroused suspicion, and the Australian Soccer Federation have authorised an investigation into the part played by agents. For some time now, unsubstantiated rumours have linked Australia coach Eddie Thompson with several transactions appearing to involve a disturbingly large number of "middle men".**

**Thompson, a former Aberdeen and Hearts defender, gave short shrift to reporters querying him after the ASF announced the inquiry. "I'm far too poor to be an agent," he snorted.**

**He appears unconcerned about the investigation, and nor did the touring South Africans give him any anxiety. They were never allowed to get into their stride and the Socceroos, much more committed and disciplined, dominated throughout. Poor finishing let them down badly, and two 1-0 victories hardly reflected the home team's superiority. Aurelio Vidmar in Adelaide and Jason Polak in Sydney scored the winning goals.**

**South Africa were hardly an adequate substitute for Internazionale, whose tour was cancelled at short notice.**

**None of the recent visitors shone. After losing to Adelaide City, Sheffield United were held to a 1-1 draw by Australia's Olympic selection, and the "Olyroos" did even better against Greece's Aris Salonika, winning 1-0.**

**PAUL MOON**


CONFEDERATION

SANYO MILD SEVEN SNICKERS

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Football, the Game of the Future.

MARK GLEESON FORECASTS MORE PROBLEMS ACROSS AFRICA AS THE MONEY RUNS OUT

# CAUGHT IN A CASH TRAP

**THE performances of the three African teams at the World Cup finals in the US just about summed up the current state of the game on the continent.**

There was unrealised potential (Nigeria), indiscipline (Cameroon) and technical naivety (Morocco).

This tournament was supposed to take African football to a new plateau after Cameroon's exciting exploits in Italy four years earlier.

Nigeria were looking for a semi-final place and had it well within their grasp before sinking to the Italians in the second round.

Morocco threw their chance away, losing all three group games despite displaying talent in patches in their matches against Belgium, Holland and Saudi Arabia. And Cameroon were simply atrocious.

None of the trio did the continent's cause any good. A few days before the World Cup African delegates to the FIFA Congress in Chicago were again bleating about more places at the World Cup finals, and demanding that the hosting of the tournament be awarded on a rotational basis between the continents.

A rare moment . . . Nigerian players celebrate Amokachi's goal against Bulgaria.

The performances of the three representatives was supposed to enhance their case, but besides one day of glory, when Nigeria pulverised Bulgaria in Dallas, there was little to enthuse over.

Frankly, that is the way things will be with Africa for some while yet. While the export of players continues unabated and more African individuals are making an impact at club level in Europe, the game back home is slowly sliding downhill.

Economic crises are rampant throughout the fragile economies of central, east, north and west Africa — and football suffers along with the population.

For example, while the World Cup was going on before record crowds in the United States, nine two-legged ties were scheduled for the preliminary round of the African qualifiers for the World Youth Championships in 1995.

Of these nine fixtures, only two went ahead, with seven nations withdrawing through lack of finances before a ball was kicked.

And junior soccer is supposed to be the launching pad for an African win at a future World Cup.

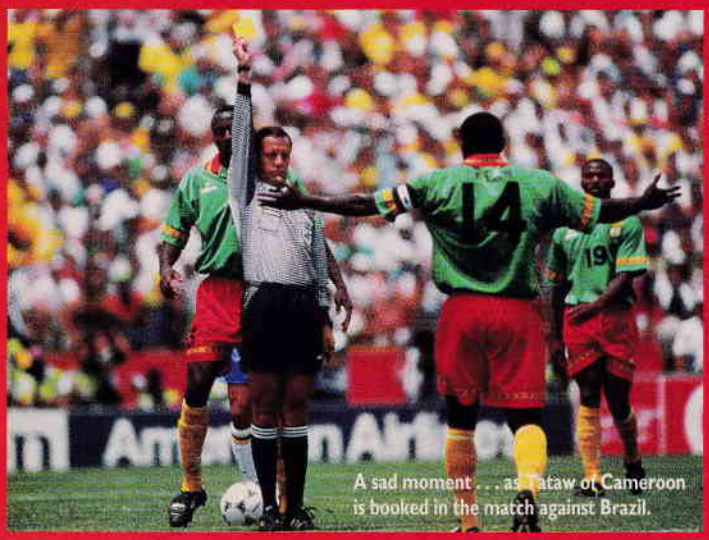
That tally of money-related withdrawals surely will escalate in the next few weeks, when the African Nations Cup qualifying matches kick off, as well as the Under-17 qualifiers for the 1995 finals, to be held in Ecuador.

Many African teams now cannot even afford to bring home their European-based professionals for qualifying games, losing the one advantage that Africa has gained from an increased profile in world soccer. Coaches of quality are priced out of the African market, infrastructure is reaching a new low and administration remains allied to political stability, or the lack of it.

The continent now seems destined to remain no more than just a market for the teams of Europe.

Gems like Austin Okocha, Rigobert Song, Sunday Oliseh, and Marc-Vivien Foe will continue to emerge, but will a team credibily challenge for the World Cup?

I think not.



A sad moment . . . as Tataw of Cameroon is booked in the match against Brazil.

## PORTERFIELD QUITS ZAMBIAN JOB

IAN PORTERFIELD has resigned as manager of Zambia and taken up a £400,000 contract in Saudi Arabia. Porterfield had five months of his contract to run but said the deal with Saudi side Al Ittihad was too good to turn down.

The 48-year-old Scot was hailed a hero in Zambia after guiding a team still shaken by an appalling air crash to the final of the African Nations Cup in April where they lost to World Cup finalists Nigeria.

Porterfield, a former manager of the English club Chelsea, said: "I cannot turn this offer down because I have to think of my family's security."

## HARRIS WINS . . . AND LOSES

**ALLAN HARRIS, formerly assistant to Terry Venables at Barcelona and Tottenham, won the Egyptian championship with Al Ahly — but then was sacked.**

**Most of the squad claimed that they could not adapt to his tactics, despite the club's success.**

**Al Ahly beat Ismailiya 4-2 in the title play-off, to follow their success in the African Cup-winners Cup earlier in the season.**

**National coach Taha Ismael chose a squad of 24 to prepare for the first African Nations Cup qualifying match, against Sudan in Cairo, on September 2. The big surprise was the omission of veteran goalkeeper Ahmed Shoubeir, who played in the 1990 World Cup finals.**

**AZAM MAHMOOD**

# RESULTS *Euro '96 schedule . . . latest Libertadores Cup results and fixtures . . .*

## 1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

### GROUP 1
***(France, Romania, Poland, Israel, Slovakia, Azerbaijan)***

04.09.94 Israel v Poland
07.09.94 Slovakia v France
07.09.94 Romania v Azerbaijan
08.10.94 France v Romania
12.10.94 Israel v Slovakia
12.10.94 Poland v Azerbaijan
12.11.94 Romania v Slovakia
16.11.94 Poland v France
16.11.94 Azerbaijan v Israel
14.12.94 Azerbaijan v France
14.12.94 Israel v Romania
29.03.95 Romania v Poland
29.03.95 Israel v France
29.03.95 Slovakia v Azerbaijan
25.04.95 Poland v Israel
26.04.95 France v Slovakia
26.04.95 Azerbaijan v Romania
07.06.95 Poland v Slovakia
07.06.95 Romania v Israel
16.08.95 France v Poland
16.08.95 Azerbaijan v Slovakia
06.09.95 France v Azerbaijan
06.09.95 Slovakia v Israel
06.09.95 Poland v Romania
11.10.95 Romania v France
11.10.95 Israel v Azerbaijan
11.10.95 Slovakia v Poland
15.11.95 Slovakia v Romania
15.11.95 Azerbaijan v Poland
15.11.95 France v Israel

### GROUP 2
***(Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Macedonia, Cyprus, Armenia)***

07.09.94 Cyprus v Spain
07.09.94 Macedonia v Denmark
07.09.94 Belgium v Armenia
08.10.94 Armenia v Cyprus
12.10.94 Denmark v Belgium
12.10.94 Macedonia v Spain
16.11.94 Belgium v Macedonia
16.11.94 Spain v Denmark
16.11.94 Cyprus v Armenia
17.12.94 Belgium v Spain
17.12.94 Macedonia v Cyprus
29.03.95 Spain v Belgium
29.03.95 Cyprus v Denmark
26.04.95 Armenia v Spain
26.04.95 Belgium v Cyprus
26.04.95 Denmark v Macedonia
10.05.95 Armenia v Macedonia
07.06.95 Denmark v Cyprus
07.06.95 Macedonia v Belgium
07.06.95 Spain v Armenia
16.08.95 Armenia v Denmark
06.09.95 Belgium v Denmark
06.09.95 Spain v Cyprus
06.09.95 Macedonia v Armenia
07.10.95 Armenia v Belgium
11.10.95 Denmark v Spain
11.10.95 Cyprus v Macedonia
15.11.95 Spain v Macedonia
15.11.95 Cyprus v Belgium
15.11.95 Denmark v Armenia

### GROUP 3
***(Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Iceland, Turkey)***

07.09.94 Iceland v Sweden
07.09.94 Hungary v Turkey
12.10.94 Turkey v Iceland
12.10.94 Switzerland v Sweden
16.11.94 Switzerland v Iceland
16.11.94 Sweden v Hungary
14.12.94 Turkey v Switzerland
29.03.95 Turkey v Sweden
29.03.95 Hungary v Switzerland
26.04.95 Hungary v Sweden
26.04.95 Switzerland v Turkey
01.06.95 Sweden v Iceland
11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v Iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

### GROUP 4
***(Italy, Ukraine, Croatia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia)***

04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

### GROUP 5
***(Holland, Norway, Czech Republic, Byelorussia, Malta, Luxembourg)***

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg
12.10.94 Norway v Holland
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep
14.12.94 Malta v Norway
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway
29.03.95 Holland v Malta
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

### GROUP 6
***(Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Austria, Latvia, Liechtenstein)***

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein.....4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

### GROUP 7
***(Germany, Wales, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania, Moldova)***

07.09.94 Wales v Albania
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia
16.11.94 Albania v Germany
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia
18.12.94 Germany v Albania
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova
26.04.95 Germany v Wales
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

### GROUP 8
***(Russia, Greece, Scotland, Finland, Faroe Islands, San Marino)***

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands
12.10.94 Greece v Finland
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland
26.04.95 Greece v Russia
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

## SOUTH AMERICA

### 1994 LIBERTADORES CUP
**First Round**

**Group 1**
**(Colombia — Paraguay)**

02.03.94 Olimpia (P) v Cerro Portena (P) 1-0
04.03.93 Junior (C) v Indep Medellin (C) 0-1
09.03.94 Indep Medellin v Olimpia.....0-0
12.03.93 Junior v Olimpia .....0-0
16.03.94 Indep Medellin v Cerro Porteno 3-0
18.03.94 Junior v Cerro Porteno.....3-2
24.03.94 Indep Medellin v Junior.....0-1
05.04.94 Olimpia v Indep Medellin.....0-2
08.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Indep Medellin 0-0
12.04.94 Olimpia v Junior .....1-0
15.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Junior.....1-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indep Medellin** | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| **Olimpia** | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| **Junior Barranqilla** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Cerro Porteno | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 3 |

**Group 2**
**(Argentina — Brazil)**

13.02.94 Velez (A) v Boca Juniors (A).....1-1
02.03.94 Palmeiras (B) v Cruzeiro (B).....2-0
09.03.94 Cruzeiro v Velez Sarsfield.....1-1
09.03.94 Palmeiras v Boca Juniors.....6-1
16.03.94 Boca Juniors v Cruzeiro.....1-2
17.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Palmeiras.....1-0
23.03.94 Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield..1-2
25.03.94 Cruzeiro v Palmeiras .....2-1
30.03.94 Boca Juniors v Palmeiras.....2-1
31.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Cruzeiro .....2-0
06.04.94 Cruzeiro v Boca Juniors.....2-1
07.04.94 Palmeiras v Velez Sarsfield.....4-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Velez Sarsfield** | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| **Cruzeiro** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| **Palmeiras** | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 7 | 6 |
| Boca Juniors | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 3 |

**Group 3**
**(Ecuador — Peru)**

02.03.94 Universitario (P) v Alianza (P).....0-1
02.03.94 Emelec (E) v Barcelona (E) .....0-1
08.03.94 Barcelona v Universitario .....0-0
11.03.94 Emelec v Universitario.....2-0
15.03.94 Barcelona v Alianza.....3-0
18.03.94 Emelec v Alianza.....3-0
23.03.94 Alianza v Universitario .....1-2
23.03.94 Barcelona v Emelec.....0-1
05.04.94 Alianza v Barcelona.....2-1
08.04.94 Universitario v Barcelona .....0-0
12.04.94 Alianza v Emelec.....2-2
15.04.94 Universitario v Emelec.....2-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Emelec** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| **Universitario** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| **Barcelona** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Alianza | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 5 |

**Group 4**
**(Chile — Uruguay)**

02.03.94 U. Espanola (C) v Colo Colo (C) 1-2
02.03.94 Defensor (U) v Nacional (U).....1-0
08.03.94 Union Espanola v Defensor.....1-0
13.03.94 Colo Colo v Defensor.....2-0
15.03.94 Union Espanola v Nacional.....1-0
18.03.94 Colo Colo v Nacional.....4-2
23.03.94 Colo Colo v Union Espanola.....3-1
23.03.94 Nacional v Defensor.....1-1
05.04.94 Defensor v Colo Colo.....0-0
08.04.94 Nacional v Colo Colo.....2-0
12.04.94 Defensor v Union Espanola.....1-1
15.04.94 Nacional v Union Espanola.....0-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Colo Colo** | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 6 | [illegible] |
| **Union Espanola** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | [illegible] |
| **Defensor** | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | [illegible] |
| Nacional | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | [illegible] |

**Group 5**
**(Bolivia — Venezuela)**

23.02.94 Minerven (V) v Maritimo (V).....2-[illegible]
23.02.94 Bolivar (B) v The Strongest (B) ..0-[illegible]
01.03.94 Minerven v Bolivar.....1-[illegible]
04.03.94 Maritimo v Bolivar .....0-[illegible]
08.03.94 Minerven v The Strongest .....5-[illegible]
11.03.94 Maritimo v The Strongest.....1-[illegible]
16.03.94 The Strongest v Bolivar.....0-[illegible]
22.03.94 Bolivar v Minerven.....4-[illegible]
25.03.94 The Strongest v Minerven .....7-[illegible]
05.04.94 Bolivar v Maritimo .....2-[illegible]
08.04.94 The Strongest v Maritimo.....5-[illegible]

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bolivar** | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 2 | [illegible] |
| **The Strongest** | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 7 | [illegible] |
| **Minerven** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 17 | [illegible] |
| Maritimo | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 13 | [illegible] |

**Second Round**
**1st Leg**

14.04.94 Bolivar v The Stongest.....2-[illegible]
20.04.94 Junior v Colo Colo.....1-[illegible]
20.04.94 Universitario v Indep Medellin...2-[illegible]
20.04.94 Minerven v Emelec.....2-[illegible]
20.04.94 Barcelona v Olimpia.....0-[illegible]
21.04.94 Union Espanola v Cruzeiro.....1-[illegible]
21.04.94 Defensor v Velez Sarsfield.....1-[illegible]
27.04.94 Palmeiras v Sao Paulo .....0-[illegible]
● *Sao Paulo qualified as holders*

**2nd Leg**

24.04.94 The Strongest v Bolivar.....0-[illegible]
*Bolivar won 6-1 on agg*
27.04.94 Colo Colo v Junior.....2-[illegible]
*agg: 3-3, Junior won 4-3 on pens*
27.04.94 Indep Medellin v Universitario...2-[illegible]
*Indep Medellin won 3-2 on agg*
27.04.94 Emelec v Minerven.....3-[illegible]
*agg: 3-3, Minerven won 4-0 on pens*
27.04.94 Olimpia v Barcelona.....2-[illegible]
*Olimpia won 3-1 on agg*
27.04.94 Velez Sarsfield v Defensor.....0-[illegible]
*agg: 1-1, Velez won 4-3 on pens*
28.04.94 Cruzeiro v Union Espanola.....0-[illegible]
*Union Espanola won 1-0 on agg*
22.07.94 Sao Paulo v Palmeiras .....2-[illegible]
*Sao Paulo won 2-1 on agg*

**Quarter-finals**
**1st Leg**

27.07.94 Olimpia v Bolivar .....1-[illegible]
27.07.94 Indep Medellin v Junior.....0-[illegible]
27.07.94 Minerven v Velez.....0-[illegible]
29.07.94 Union Espanola v Sao Paulo.....1-[illegible]

**2nd Leg**

03.08.94 Bolivar v Olimpia .....0-[illegible]
*Olimpia won 3-0 on agg*
03.08.94 Junior v Indep Medellin .....0-[illegible]
*Junior won 2-0 on agg*
03.08.94 Velez v Minerven .....2-[illegible]
*Velez won 2-0 on agg*
03.08.94 Sao Paulo v Union Espanola.....4-[illegible]
*Sao Paulo won 5-4 on agg*

**Semi-finals**
**1st Leg**

10.08.94 Junior v Velez
10.08.94 Sao Paulo v Olimpia

**2nd Leg**

17.08.94 Velez v Junior
17.08.94 Olimpia v Sao Paulo

**Final**

First Leg — Wednesday, Aug 24
Second Leg — Wednesday, Aug 31

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE — *1994-95 SCHEDULE*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

***GROUP A***

Manchester United (Eng) v Sparta Prague (Cze) or IFK Gothenburg (Swe)
Barcelona (Spa) v Avenir Beggen (Lux) or Galatasaray (Tur)

***GROUP B***

Silkeborg (Den) or Kiev Dynamo (Ukr) v Moscow Spartak (Rus)
Paris SG (Fra) or VAC Samsung (Hun) v Bayern Munich (Ger)

***GROUP C***

Legia Warsaw (Pol) or Hajduk Split (Cro) v Benfica (Por)
Anderlecht (Bel) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom) or Servette (Swi)

***GROUP D***

Maccabi Haifa (Isr) or Casino Salzburg (Aut) v AEK Athens (Gre) or Rangers (Sco)
Ajax Amsterdam (Hol) v Milan (Ita)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

***GROUP A***

Avenir Beggen or Galatasaray v Manchester United
Sparta Prague or IFK Gothenburg v Barcelona

***GROUP B***

Bayern Munich v Silkeborg or Kiev Dynamo
Moscow Spartak v Paris SG or VAC Samsung

***GROUP C***

Steaua Bucharest or Servette v Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split
Benfica v Anderlecht

***GROUP D***

Milan v Maccabi Haifa or Casino Salzburg
AEK Athens or Rangers v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

***GROUP A***

Sparta Prague or IFK Gothenburg v Avenir Beggen or Galatasaray
Manchester United v Barcelona

***GROUP B***

Moscow Spartak v Bayern Munich
Silkeborg or Kiev Dynamo v Paris SG or VAC Samsung

***GROUP C***

Benfica v Steaua Bucharest or Servette
Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split v Anderlecht

***GROUP D***

AEK Athens or Rangers v Milan
Maccabi Haifa or Casino Salzburg v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

***GROUP A***

Avenir Beggen or Galatasaray v Sparta Prague or IFK Gothenburg
Barcelona v Manchester United

***GROUP B***

Bayern Munich v Moscow Spartak
Paris SG or VAC Samsung v Silkeborg or Kiev Dynamo

***GROUP C***

Steaua Bucharest or Servette v Benfica
Anderlecht v Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split

***GROUP D***

Milan v AEK Athens or Rangers
Ajax Amsterdam v Maccabi Haifa or Casino Salzburg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

***GROUP A***

Sparta Prague or IFK Gothenburg v Manchester United
Avenir Beggen or Galatasaray v Barcelona

***GROUP B***

Spartak Moscow v Silkeborg or Kiev Dynamo
Bayern Munich v Paris SG or VAC Samsung

***GROUP C***

Benfica v Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split
Steaua Bucharest or Servette v Anderlecht

***GROUP D***

AEK Athens or Rangers v Maccabi Haifa or Casino Salzburg
Milan v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

***GROUP A***

Manchester United v Avenir Beggen or Galatasaray
Barcelona v Sparta Prague or IFK Gothenburg

***GROUP B***

Silkeborg or Kiev Dynamo v Bayern Munich
Paris SG or VAC Samsung v Moscow Spartak

***GROUP C***

Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split v Steaua Bucharest or Servette
Anderlecht v Benfica

***GROUP D***

Maccabi Haifa or Casino Salzburg v Milan
Ajax Amsterdam v AEK Athens or Rangers

## *WORLD CUP — 1930-94*

| *Year* | *Hosts* | *Games* | *Goals* | *Ave* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1930 | Uruguay | 18 | 70 | 3.88 |
| 1934 | Italy | 17 | 70 | 4.11 |
| 1938 | France | 18 | 84 | 4.66 |
| 1950 | Brazil | 22 | 88 | 4.00 |
| 1954 | Switzerland | 26 | 140 | 5.38 |
| 1958 | Sweden | 35 | 126 | 3.60 |
| 1962 | Chile | 32 | 89 | 2.78 |
| 1966 | England | 32 | 89 | 2.78 |
| 1970 | Mexico | 32 | 95 | 2.96 |
| 1974 | West Germany | 38 | 97 | 2.55 |
| 1978 | Argentina | 38 | 102 | 2.68 |
| 1982 | Spain | 52 | 146 | 2.80 |
| 1986 | Mexico | 52 | 132 | 2.53 |
| 1990 | Italy | 52 | 115 | 2.21 |
| 1994 | USA | 52 | 141 | 2.71 |
| ***Totals*** | | 516 | 1,584 | 3.07 |

| *Year* | *Hosts* | *Games* | *Gates* | *Ave* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1930 | Uruguay | 18 | 434,500 | 24,138 |
| 1934 | Italy | 17 | 395,000 | 23,235 |
| 1938 | France | 18 | 483,000 | 26,833 |
| 1950 | Brazil | 22 | 1,337,000 | 60,772 |
| 1954 | Switzerland | 26 | 943,000 | 36,270 |
| 1958 | Sweden | 35 | 868,000 | 24,800 |
| 1962 | Chile | 32 | 776,000 | 24,250 |
| 1966 | England | 32 | 1,614,677 | 50,458 |
| 1970 | Mexico | 32 | 1,673,975 | 52,311 |
| 1974 | West Germany | 38 | 1,774,022 | 46,684 |
| 1978 | Argentina | 38 | 1,610,215 | 42,374 |
| 1982 | Spain | 52 | 1,766,277 | 33,967 |
| 1986 | Mexico | 52 | 2,199,941 | 42,307 |
| 1990 | Italy | 52 | 2,510,686 | 48,282 |
| 1994 | USA | 52 | 3,567,415 | 68,604 |
| ***Totals*** | | 516 | 21,953,708 | 42,545 |

## 1993-94 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

*NOW that the Champions Cup has become a much more exclusive competition, this is the time for a full list of Europe's current national champions.*

| *COUNTRY* | *CHAMPIONS* |
|---|---|
| Albania | Teuta Durres |
| Armenia | Ararat Yerevan |
| Austria | Austria Salzburg |
| Azerbaijan | FC Touran |
| Belgium | Anderlecht |
| Bulgaria | Levski Sofia |
| Byelorussia | Minsk Dynamo |
| Croatia | Hajduk Split |
| Cyprus | Apollon Limassol |
| Czech Republic | Sparta Prague |
| Denmark | Silkeborg |
| England | Manchester United |
| Estonia | Flora Tallinn |
| Faroe Islands | GI |
| Finland | FC Jazz Pori |
| France | Paris SG |
| Georgia | Tbilisi Dynamo |
| Germany | Bayern Munich |
| Greece | AEK Athens |
| Holland | Ajax Amsterdam |
| Hungary | Vac FC-Samsung |
| Iceland | IA Akranes |
| Israel | Maccabi Haifa |
| Italy | Milan |
| Latvia | Skonto Riga |
| Liechtenstein | Schaan |
| Lithuania | Romar Majeikai |
| Luxembourg | Avenir Beggen |
| Macedonia | Vardar Sjopje |
| Malta | Hibernians |
| Moldova | Zimbrul Chisinau |
| Northern Ireland | Linfield |
| Norway | Rosenborg |
| Poland | Legia Warsaw |
| Portugal | Benfica |
| Republic of Ireland | Shamrock Rovers |
| Romania | Steaua Bucharest |
| Russia | Moscow Spartak |
| San Marino | Tre Fiori |
| Scotland | Rangers |
| Slovakia | Slovan Bratislava |
| Slovenia | Olimpija Ljubljana |
| Spain | Barcelona |
| Sweden | IFK Gothenburg |
| Switzerland | Servette |
| Turkey | Galatasaray |
| Ukraine | Kiev Dynamo |
| Wales | Bangor |

# Learning the lessons of USA '94

NO SOONER had the World Cup started, than it had very quickly finished. This can largely be put down to the very exciting games particularly in those early stages, when FIFA's actions on three points for a win, penalisation of over-physical tackling from behind and the stretcher cases, deserved some of the credit for the feast of soccer skills.

However, it soon became obvious as the competition progressed that, because the games were primarily arranged to suit media and TV schedules, those teams who relied on midfield runners would tend to suffer as the heat and the humidity took its toll and the matches would generally revert to keeping possession in midfield with occasional runs from deep.

In fact the more technical and skilful teams were able to adapt to the conditions the better, whilst the Germans underestimated the Bulgarians. The Argentina v Romania game should be held up as a shining example for all to admire, with the Eastern Bloc and the African teams playing their part in the feast of early attacking football. ALL the lessons were there to be learned. We must, as coaches, teachers and parents, allow youngsters to experiment and to make mistakes without admonishment and our structure should be developed towards enhancing the skill of the player in different situations, to help them recognise these opportunities that arise and remove the rigidity of our current ideals. *(Thanks to Keith Waldon and his quotation).*

*'It is the nature of all greatness not to be too exact'*
*— Edmund Burke (1729-97)*

Along the same principle Paul Power of the PFA wrote: "We must work to develop this inventiveness in our forwards who are prepared to make defenders defend, worrying them with quick play around the area."

There were many interesting points that

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

# A WHIMPER NOT A BANG

**THE World Cup of 1994 went out not with a bang but with a whimper.**

**With a flurry of quite irrelevant penalties, giving victory to a far from brilliant Brazilian team who probably, overall, deserved it, over an Italian team who should never have been in the Final at all.**

**Joao Havelange made this shabby charade, this travesty of a World Cup ending, inevitable, when he beat Stanley Rous to the presidency of FIFA in 1974.**

**Alas, he has retained it ever since, surrounded by place-men, grovellers, psychophants and yes-men. And these are the brave ones.**

**In the process, he paid his debts by bloating the World Cup into an unmanageable 24 teams. This made the tournament a wearyingly protracted one at the best of times. But in America, it was the worst of times.**

**The ineffable Havelange said breezily, when it was all over, that the heat had made no difference, that medical advances (can he name them?) had enabled players to cope with such conditions. That there had been no complaints (what good would they have been?) That the teams involved knew when and where they would have to play, before the tournament began.**

**I have no brief for Havelange, but to be fair to this unloveable man, this inhuman trend, this sacrifice of players who in America performed like heroes, was not begun by him.**

**It was Rous's FIFA who first, inexcusably, assigned the World Cup to Mexico, for 1970. Though it was doubly appalling when Havelange *(right)*, for reasons which seemed deeply debatable, and suspect, gave it to Mexico again, for 1986.**

Second best . . . Roberto Baggio and Franco Baresi.

**I wrote of the decision to choose Mexico for 1970 that the World Cup had been prostituted to European TV. So it has been, again.**

**America, wrote W.H. Auden, who went there when young, is a country that was never meant to be lived in. And less still to be playing football in, during the killing heat of the afternoons.**

**I had been very keen for the States to have the World Cup, but I had never envisaged the insane choice of such venues and kick-off times.**

**"Players of the world unite!" one wanted to cry. "You have nothing to lose but your brains!"**

**The players got used to it, did they? Didn't Havelange look at any of the complaints, the protests, one player after another, from one country after another, made before the tournament had even begun, let alone while it ensued?**

**Sure, the Italians played a negative game against Brazil. Indeed, it was unfair and absurd to put Roberto Baggio on the field in his injured condition. But Italy didn't have a gallop left in them. They were walking wounded, losing up to four kilos a man, even in training.**

**Their lucky manager, Arrigo Sacchi, who somehow got them to the final, riding his luck like a rodeo star, had no hope of playing the normal "pressing" game which has been common to his teams.**

## A CASE FOR APPEAL

I HAVE not written here of the case that Paul Elliott *(above)*, out of the game for good at the age of 28, brought against Dean Saunders.

Elliott lost in the High Court, and at this moment, it's yet to be decided whether there will be an appeal against the peculiar judgement delivered by Mr Justice Drake.

One seems unlikely, but I hope there is. Judge Drake is an impressively tolerant, humorous, benign figure, but his judgement was riddled with holes. I gave evidence for Elliott, but if you do not believe me, then note the support he had from Patrick Barclay of *The Observer*, who nobly testified for him after having been asked to do so for Saunders.

# A VICTORY BY DEFAULT

Best of a moderate bunch . . . Brazil 1994.

**I FELT and said all along that the 1994 World Cup would be won by default.**

No great teams, just one great player in Romario. The other, potentially great, footballer, Ruud Gullit, inexcusably sulking in his tent, like a big prima donna. Shame on him. With Gullit, I'm sure Holland could have beaten Brazil.

For me, this was the poorest Brazilian World Cup team since 1978, though even then they might have reached the final.

For me, Carlos Alberto Parreira, the Brazilian manager, was one of those lame ducks who flew in the 1994 competition, Sacchi and Dick Advocaat of Holland being others. Managers without much credibility, who managed, thanks to their teams rather than their tactics, to make progress.

Parreira, initially a physical trainer, just like his unlucky predecessor, Claudio Coutinho, had Mario Zagalo beside him, but that was no great help. Having won the World Cup gloriously as coach in 1970, Zagalo, from 1974, had been the very apostle of ruthless negativity.

It was Parreira's choices which seemed so perverse. This was the least creative Brazilian midfield I can remember, in 10 World Cups. It truly had to be when the most inventive member in the final, Dunga, was in essence a hard, hard-working, down-to-earth player, largely known for the help he gave his defence.

That Parreira called up Rai from Paris Saint Germain rather than his team mate and compatriot, Valdo, who had had so much better a season (ask Arsenal) truly beggared belief.

That he should make such sparing use of the powerful left-winger, Viola, who electrified the attack when he at last went on in the final, was another mystery. Brazil badly missed a real winger, one capable of getting to the byline with a swerve and a spring, then pulling the ball back into the goalmouth, as Garrincha so notably and devastatingly did in the 1958 Final against Sweden, in Stockholm.

Instead, the Brazilians had to rely so heavily on the ingenuity, flair and acceleration of Romario and, to a lesser extent, Bebeto, indifferently served from midfield.

Best left alone . . . the new "tackle from behind" rule isn't working.

# A DECREE WITHOUT SENSE

**TALK about dead letters. There has seldom been one so dead in the water, almost before it had been launched, as FIFA's decree on tackles from behind.**

To be fair to FIFA — which is always hard — it was not their idea, in the first place. It came last March from the International Board, the ruling body on rules, who gave FIFA their kind permission to use it in America, although it was not due to be implemented until July 1.

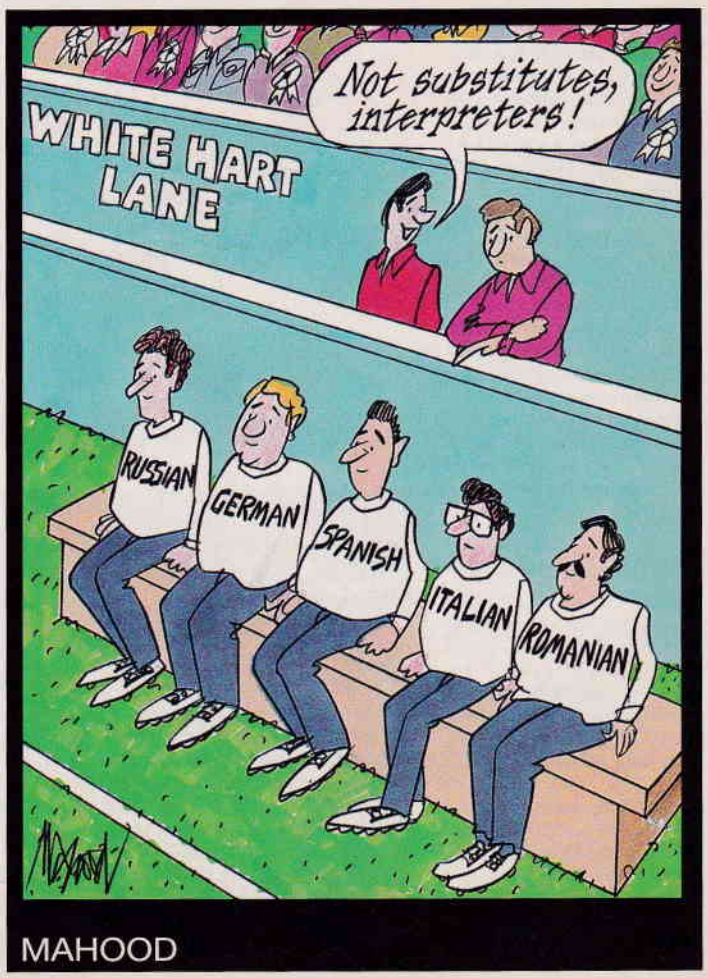
FIFA, initially at least, made no bones about it. Look at the ruling they issued on the eve of the World Cup, and you will see, quite unequivocally, that ANY tackle from behind should automatically be punished by a red card.

All very well for Philip Don, England's only World Cup referee, to say, "Nobody said you can't tackle from behind any more." FIFA did. It's in black and white.

I wrote in last month's *WORLD SOCCER* about this rule and its interpretation by referees. This was while the tournament was still in progress. By the end, I had grown tired of logging the infinite tackles from behind, many of them fouls, which did not get a player sent off.

If the illustrious Michel Platini had his way, there would be no tackling in football at all.

Tackling from behind is legitimate enough, if the ball be reached before contact is made with the player in possession. That should be the beginning and end of it.



# BROOKING talkback

**BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .**

**What do you think about football's big issues? Now you don't even need to write a letter. Just pick up the phone DIAL: 0891 311665 and record your opinions, Trevor Brooking will answer a selection each month on this page.**

**● You can write to Trevor Brooking c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London. SE1 9LS. The comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER'S* views. He will only answer those letters published.**

***Calls cost 39p minute chaep rate and 49p minute at all other times.***

## Two by two

**TREVOR —** I have a suggestion to solve the dilemma over extra time and penalty shoot-outs. Why not have 15-minute periods of extra time, with each team having to withdraw two players before the start of such periods.

So the first period would start with nine men against nine, the second with seven against seven, and the third with five against five.

If that did not produce a winner, then penalties would be needed. But the accent would be on attack, instead of the usual dull 30 minutes of emphasis on defence. Players would want to get the game over as soon as possible, in order to limit fatigue.

It's hard to see either fans or players objecting to this system. It's fairer, more entertaining, and not as complex as it at first seems.

**— ROBERT CHAPMAN, Freeman's Bay, Auckland, New Zealand.**

**❒ THIS is an interesting addition to the numerous ideas put forward instead of shoot-outs. Fortunately the 1994 World Cup provided far more entertainment than in Italy four years earlier, and showed that interpreting the current rules in a slightly different way can encourage a more positive approach from teams. The strict clampdown on reckless challenges made defenders far more wary, and allowed attacking moves to develop more easily. Some referees did not seem to have the experience or knowledge to judge what were realistic tackles, and they produced an excessive number of cards, but overall the majority implemented the instructions very well. Your suggestion might not become essential if some of these adjustments can be carried through into the various leagues controlled by FIFA. The reduction of players you suggest should improve the chances of a goal, but remember Bulgaria v Mexico? It was a frustrating stalemate for extra time, and they were both a man short.**

## Mighty mean Milan

**TREVOR —** Did you notice that Milan, for all their brilliance in the Champions Cup, won the Serie A title by scoring a mere 36 goals in 34 games?

Does this mean that the glorious days of Italian soccer are on the wane?

**— KENT FRANCIS, Nambour, Queensland, Australia.**

**❒ MILAN'S tremendous performance in the Champions Cup was one of the highlights of the whole season, and with the World Cup proving just as exciting, there are significant signs that football is starting to realise the importance of providing entertainment as well as results. I would expect Milan to score many more goals next season. The World Cup was helped enormously by three points for a win.**

## Not sweet 16

**TREVOR —** I'm very disappointed in what UEFA have done to the European Championship — 16 teams are too many. The European finals are even more exciting than the World Cup, where some matches are very one-sided and there are some very poor teams.

I hope I'm wrong and that the European Championship will continue to be a great tournament. What do you think?

**— DANIEL M. KUHRE, Monterrey, Mexico.**

**❒ THE recent World Cup helped erase the doubts you express. There was a great levelling out between countries, and European teams, expected to struggle in the heat and humidity, provided seven out of the eight quarter-finalists. Then you could add some notable absentees in the form of France, Denmark, Portugal and Poland. Finally there is the challenge of the four home countries, with England automatic qualifiers as hosts. When you see the list of countries who could emerge in that enlarged group of 16, UEFA have made the right decision. It has the potential to be a memorable tournament.**

## Deserving Dons

**TREVOR —** Can Wimbledon maintain their league success? Despite their reputation for intimidating, direct football, now they vary their tactics with fluency and do not throw away chances by limiting themselves to the long ball. Consequently it is very hard to stop them from scoring and they achieved sixth place in the Premiership last season.

**— JONATHAN LEWIS, West Wickham, Kent.**

**❒ WIMBLEDON certainly deserved praise for last season's finishing spot in the Premiership, and they are blessed with some talented players now. Whether they can keep them remains to be seen. But after the World Cup, watching the invention and skill on show in midfield I don't believe our football can progress if too many sides continue in the Wimbledon manner. They have enough ability at the club to try to introduce change.**

## All-gold Eric?

**TREVOR —** Is Eric Cantona really the great star he is being made out to be, or is it just that he appears to have the Midas touch after three consecutive titles?

**— LOUIS J. McCARTHY, Westbourne Grove, London.**

**❒ CANTONA has played in three consecutive Championship teams since coming to England which must reflect something about his ability. His form in the latest success was probably the most influential of the three, although unfortunately his disciplinary problems late on tended to overshadow some of the brilliance that had gone before. Critics point to his temperament, and sometimes his work-rate, but he is definitely the player who pulls the strings. It now remains for him to show he can perform on the European stage, where sometimes he struggles when closely man-marked by the opposition.**

## Tree trouble

**TREVOR —** I am not convinced that the "Christmas tree system" is appropriate for the England team. I agree, that Terry Venables needs to experiment and try different players. However, I have never heard of any other international team in the world who has changed their system of play.

Brazil, Germany and Italy have been playing their brand of football for as long as I can remember! England won the World Cup in 1966 playing 4-4-2. Liverpool won the European Cup four times playing the direct approach. So why does Venables experiment with an international side who do not, as yet, play as one unit?

West Germany did not panic and drastically change their pattern of play when they lost to England in the World Cup Final in 1966. Instead, they improved the selection and technical training of their players. Since then, Germany have been the most successful international side of all.

England players should adopt the German approach, because they need technical training more than a different pattern of play.

They should stick to their strengths and play their direct game.

**— TONY SKORTOU, Southwark, London.**

**❒ I AGREE with one or two of your points, but cannot accept your last sentence about sticking to their strengths which is to play the direct game. This is exactly our shortcoming at the moment, and we desperately need to lay the emphasis on improving technical training, as you have mentioned. Liverpool used a patient, passing game which relied heavily on retaining possession. We must start utilising that midfield area once again, and instal some creative passing and flair in that part of the pitch. Terry Venables has tried to switch the England style to encourage more possession play, but is not exactly blessed with a wide range of options. The "Christmas tree system" does cause me some concern, because I'm not convinced one striker, isolated up front, is going to worry many top defenders. As yet, England haven't been able to support him sufficiently from the five-man midfield. The long-term process of developing better technical players should be a major priority for the FA in future.**

## Play-off pay-off

**TREVOR —** How can we reach the play-off stages of future World Cups more quickly?

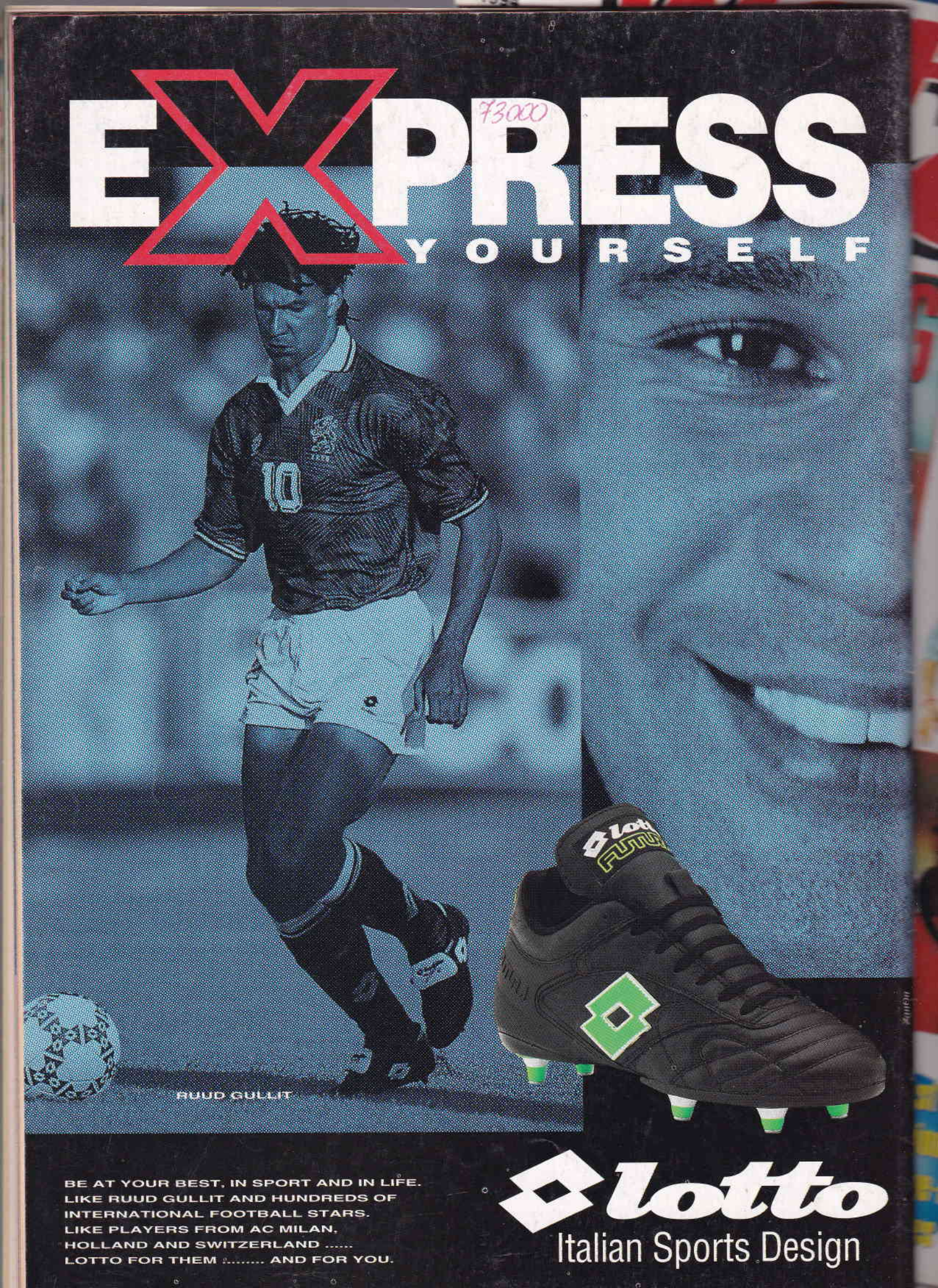
I suggest that 24 competing teams should be divided into eight groups with three teams in each, the first two teams in each group going into the play-offs in the second round.

But of course this means fewer games and the eight weakest teams would only play twice.

What do you think?

**— SVEND MADSEN, Odense SV, Denmark.**

**❒ CERTAINLY, the third-place format in the World Cup was confusing for many, although it did at least provide a minimum three matches for all. Your alternative suggestion is not necessary now, because in 1998 there will be 32 countries for the final stages. That will mean eight groups of four teams, with the top two sides progressing. Some critics are concerned the extension might allow in some weaker nations, but after this recent World Cup that argument has faded somewhat.**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